

SUMMER'S DAY

Court weighs 'Apprentice' hopeful's suit versus Trump

Summer Zervos leaves New York state appellate court, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press
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Interior Department contradicts Ben Carson on new watchdog hiring

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **KEVIN FREKING**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contradicting a claim by a Cabinet secretary, the Interior Department said Thursday that a political appointee at the Department of Housing and Urban Development will not be reassigned to lead an internal watchdog agency at Interior.

Spokeswoman Heather Swift said in a statement that an email sent by HUD Secretary Ben Carson last week "had false information in it."

Carson had said in the Oct. 12 email that assistant HUD secretary Suzanne Israel Tufts would take over as acting inspector general at Interior. Tufts would have replaced Mary Kendall, who's been acting inspector general since 2009.

The White House referred Tufts to Interior "as a potential candidate" for a job in the inspector general's of-

fice, Swift said, but "at the end of the day, she was not offered a job at Interior."

It is unusual for a political appointee to be assigned to another agency, especially an inspector general's office. Kendall's oversees about 265 employees, including 80 investigators. They conduct a wide range of inquiries at Interior, which oversees more than 245 million acres (380,000 square miles) of public lands, including 417 units in the national park system.

Meanwhile, the inspector general's office says in a new report that Interior spent more than \$25,000 providing security for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his wife when they took an August 2017 vacation to Turkey and Greece. The report, obtained by The Associated Press, said the decision to provide protection was made by a supervisor at the U.S. Park Police after Zinke approached her



President Donald Trump listens during a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in Washington. From left, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Trump, and Small Business Administration administrator Linda McMahon.

and asked whether she felt it would be safe for him to travel through Istanbul. The supervisor determined a protective detail was warranted because of an airport bombing in 2016 and a general terrorist threat in the city. Zinke told investigators he did not ask for the security detail. "They're paid to do the threat assessment," Zinke said of the park police staff. "I tend not to tell them what to do." The report also said that despite an Interior Department policy that prohibits nongovernment officials from riding in government vehicles, Zinke's wife, Lolita, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with

him. Investigators noted that the Zinkes reimbursed the agency for costs associated with her travel in department vehicles when it was required, and that the secretary cannot use personal vehicles because of his security detail.

The decision allowing Lolita Zinke to ride in government vehicles was made by agency lawyers.

The uncertainty over the leadership over the inspector general's office comes as Zinke is under investigation on other fronts, including his involvement in a Montana land deal with the head of an energy services company that does business with the depart-

Associated Press
ment. Zinke, a Republican, is a former Montana congressman. Democrats had seized on the apparent transfer of Tufts, calling her unqualified and her appointment unprecedented. In a letter Thursday, before Interior announced the transfer would not go through, Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee blasted the move. "The mere threat of replacing an IG when the head of the agency it oversees is under heavy scrutiny will send a signal to current and future IGs throughout the federal government that releasing unfavorable findings may threaten their job," Democrats wrote. □

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Mnuchin says he will not attend Saudi investment conference

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday he will not attend an investment conference in Saudi Arabia.

Mnuchin made the announcement on his Twitter account, saying that the decision was made after a White House meeting with President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Mnuchin said in his tweet,

"I will not be participating in the Future Investment Initiative summit in Saudi Arabia."

His announcement comes after Pompeo told reporters at the White House that the administration would await the outcome of investigations by Saudi Arabia and Turkey into the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi before deciding how the U.S. will respond. The Future Investment Initiative conference takes place Oct. 23-25 in the Sau-

di capital, Riyadh. It was set up last year as a kind of "Davos in the Desert" for the world's business elite to network.

Mnuchin joins a growing number of global leaders who have decided to pull out of the summit, including International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, as well as senior government officials from France, Britain and the Netherlands. □

Judges consider state court's power over Trump in lawsuit

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Appeals court judges weighing President Donald Trump's bid to shut down a former "Apprentice" contestant's defamation suit against him are asking a hypothetical question: Could a New York court order the president to jail if he were to buck an order in the case? The question came up — but wasn't definitively answered — as lawyers for Trump and ex-contestant Summer Zervos argued Thursday in a New York appeals court.

Zervos sued Trump for calling her a liar after she accused him of unwanted kissing and groping in two incidents in 2007. Trump's lawyers are trying to get the case dismissed or delayed until after his presidency.

Thursday's court session focused on one of the Trump legal team's central arguments: that a sitting president can't be sued in a state court over conduct outside official duties. It made for a discussion largely about Constitutional clauses and legal interpretation.

But state Supreme Court Appellate Division Justices Peter Tom and Angela Mazzarelli had some theoretical questions about practical matters: Could a president be taken to a city small-claims court? Or jailed by a state judge who could hold the commander-in-chief in contempt of court after an order was disregarded?

Trump lawyer Marc Kasowitz suggested the contempt question helped prove his point.

"I think there is something really, really telling about that argument," he said.

Zervos' attorney, Mariann Wang, said it's unlikely the hypothetical scenario would ever happen and the Constitution doesn't shield a president from state court suits over non-official conduct.

"The president does not stand above the law. He is still a human being," she

said. The appeals panel peppered both sides with queries and, as is common, didn't immediately issue a decision.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that then-President Bill Clinton wasn't immune from a federal sexual harassment lawsuit concerning an alleged encounter with an Arkansas state employee while he was governor. But the high court didn't settle the question of whether a president could be sued in a state court over unofficial conduct.

During that suit, Clinton was held in contempt of court for providing what a federal judge said was misleading testimony during a deposition — a session of pre-trial questioning under oath. Clinton was fined more than \$90,000.

Zervos, a California restaurateur, watched intently from the court audience, sitting forward in her seat while Wang argued her case.

Outside court, Zervos didn't comment on the case but asked the public to contribute to a GoFundMe page to help pay her attorneys.

"They've worked very hard, and they haven't been paid up until this point," she said.

Zervos appeared on "The Apprentice" in 2006, when Trump was the reality show's host.

She says she met with him twice the next year, seeking career advice but getting unwelcomed kisses and groping.

According to her lawsuit, she didn't broach the encounters publicly for years because she thought they were isolated episodes of bad behavior by a businessman she admired. She went public with her allegation after an "Access Hollywood" recording emerged in October 2016 of Trump boasting about groping women.

Trump — by then the Republican presidential nominee — denied Zervos' claims and retweeted a message calling them "a hoax."

He also launched broadsides on Twitter and on rally stages against all the dozen-plus women who broached sexual misconduct claims against him around that same time, calling them "liars" peddling "totally made-up nonsense to steal the election," among other comments.

Zervos' lawyers say his comments were factual falsehoods that subjected her to threats and made her restaurant lose business. Trump's lawyers say his remarks were opinions that he had a free-speech right to express in the course of politics. Zervos is seeking a retraction, an apology and compensatory and punitive damages. Like Trump, she is a Republican. Both



Summer Zervos leaves New York state appellate court, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

sides have continued gathering evidence while they await the appeals court's decision on whether the case can proceed, and they have been clashing

over the scope of documents they should have to provide one another.

A Manhattan court is set to hear arguments on those issues next week. □

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States and feds unite on election security after '16 clashes



In this Sept. 20, 2018 photo, voting booths stand ready in downtown Minneapolis for the opening of early voting in Minnesota.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Weeks before the 2016 election, federal officials started making mysterious calls to the head of elections in Inyo County, California. They asked her to contact them if she noticed anything unusual. But they wouldn't elaborate. "I asked them: 'How am I going to be able to protect against it if I don't know what it is?'" said the official, Kammi Foote. Now, Foote communicates regularly with federal officials. They came to her small county of about

10,000 registered voters to analyze the security of her ballot system. She participates in state and federal information-sharing groups that didn't exist two years ago and is getting a sensor that can help detect unwanted intrusions.

"I'm feeling optimistic," Foote said about the Nov. 6 election. "I feel like the entire field of election administration has grown and matured in their ability to understand the cyber component and cyberthreats." Election officials and federal cybersecurity agents alike tout improved collaboration aimed at confronting and deterring election tampering. Granted, the only way to go was up: In 2016, amid Russian meddling, federal officials were accused first of being too tight-lipped on intelligence about possible hacking into state systems and later for trying to seize control from the states.

Officials from Homeland Security, the department tasked with helping states secure elections, say the midterms will be the most secure vote in the modern era. They said they haven't yet seen the type of infiltrations that happened in 2016.

Still, cybersecurity experts aren't so sure the improved security and local-federal cooperation will be enough, given the breadth of threats that electoral systems may face.

States run elections, a decentralized process that makes it harder for anyone to conduct a nationwide attack on the electoral system. The downside is there is no national playbook. The 10,000 or so election jurisdictions use a combination of paper ballots scanned into computers, entirely computerized ballots stored online and old-school paper ballots, marked and hand-counted by humans.

With the realization that Russian-backed agents were interfering with the 2016 vote, then-Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson designated elec-

tion systems as "critical infrastructure," a change that allowed the federal government more leeway to help states. There is no evidence that votes were altered in 2016, but intelligence officials say all 50 states had some type of intrusion, though only a few were compromised, like in Illinois, where records on 90,000 voters had been downloaded.

Johnson's decision irked some local officials concerned about the federal government meddling in their elections.

"We don't like to be told what to do without any say," said John Merrill, Alabama's secretary of state. Federal officials concede the beginning was rocky. "Communication was not a key element of the initial rollout," Christopher Krebs, Homeland Security's cybersecurity chief, said at a recent election security conference. "When I look at where we are right now, the single most important factor that has been established ... with our state and local partners is trust."

States are managing antiquated machinery, built by a few unregulated and secretive vendors. The outdated software is highly vulnerable to cyberattacks. Online voter registration databases are frequent targets.

Election systems are constantly under fire — efforts to steal sensitive data, disrupt services and undermine voter confidence.

"We experience thousands of attempts every day," Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos said. In one example, he said his state recently reported that it had blocked two intrusion attempts into its online voter registration database. The federal government, using data from the sensors, traced the attempts to addresses that originated in Russia.

State election officials aren't cyber experts and government jobs don't pay enough to attract high-level private-sector information technology workers. □

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Ex-FBI agent gets 4 years in prison for leaking documents

By AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A former FBI agent in Minnesota who admitted leaking classified internal documents to a reporter was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison.

Terry James Albury, 39, pleaded guilty in April to one count each of unauthorized disclosure of national defense information and unauthorized retention of national defense information. He appeared to cry in court and took several moments to compose himself as he read a statement before he was sentenced.

"I truly wanted to make a difference and never intended to put anyone in danger," Albury said, his voice wavering. He took responsibility for his actions and apologized to the people he hurt.

Prosecutors said Albury betrayed public trust when he stole more than 70 documents, including 50 that were classified. The information he shared with an online news organization included a document classified as "secret" that related to how the FBI assesses confidential informants.

U.S. District Judge Wilhelmina Wright said Albury abused his security clearance and position as an FBI agent.

"You did so knowingly. You did so willingly. You knew that what you did was a criminal act, and you knew that you were putting the nation's security at risk," the judge told Albury, adding that the prison sentence reflects the seriousness of the crime and should deter others from doing something similar.

Albury's defense attorneys

had asked for probation, saying he acted patriotically and was morally conflicted by the FBI's counterterrorism policies that he viewed as racial profiling.

Albury told the court that he joined the FBI with a "sincere desire to serve, protect and make this world a better place," but that over time, he believed some of the FBI's counterterrorism policies were a detriment to national security. Albury, who is black, also felt isolated as a minority in the FBI.

"I now recognize there were other avenues, and wish I would've trusted the FBI's internal processes for addressing my concerns," Albury said.

Wright, who is also black, said she believed Albury thought his motives were honorable, but they were misguided. She said she is not blind to issues minorities face but "those conditions, they didn't require you to commit a crime. And in my view, they are not an excuse for doing so."

The Trump administration and Attorney General Jeff Sessions have made prosecuting government employees who leak sensitive information to the media a priority. Sessions said last year that the Justice Department had more than tripled the number of active leak investigations since President Barack Obama left office.

Albury was accused of sharing documents with an online news organization. One document, dated Aug. 17, 2011, related to how the FBI assesses confidential informants. The date of that document and its subject matter corresponded with a Jan. 31, 2017, story on The Intercept. Legal scholars also

weighed in before the sentencing. A group of 17 scholars who focus on constitutional law, First Amendment law and media law filed a brief asking the court to craft a punishment that would weigh the constitutional protection of free speech and the public's interest in Albury's disclosure against any harm to national security. □



Former Minneapolis FBI agent Terry Albury, followed by his attorney, Joshua Dratel, walk out of the Federal Courthouse in St. Paul Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018 after Albury was sentenced to four years in prison for leaking classified defense documents to a reporter.

Associated Press



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APNewsBreak: California revisits three-strike life sentences

By **DON THOMPSON**

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Up to 4,000 California inmates serving life sentences for nonviolent convictions could be paroled following the state's decision to let stand a judge's ruling saying those prisoners are eligible for freedom under a voter-approved law.

The state will craft new regulations by January to include the repeat offenders in early release provisions. Gov. Jerry Brown also will not appeal a court ruling that the state is illegally excluding the nonviolent career criminals from parole under the 2016 ballot measure he championed to reduce the prison population and encourage rehabilitation.

The state parole board estimates between 3,000 and 4,000 nonviolent third-strikers could be affected, corrections department spokeswoman Vicky Waters told The Associated Press Thursday, "but they would have to go through rigorous public safety screenings and a parole



In this Feb. 20, 2014, file photo, prisoners from Sacramento County await processing after arriving at the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, Calif.

board hearing before any decision is made."

It's the second such loss for the Democratic governor, who leaves office days after the new rules are due. Another judge ruled in February that the state must

consider earlier parole for potentially thousands of sex offenders. The administration is fighting that ruling, which undercuts repeated promises that Brown made to voters to exclude sex offenders from earlier release. Prosecutors warned throughout the Prop. 57 campaign that nonviolent third-strikers would unintentionally fall under the measure's constitutional amendment, said California District Attorneys Association spokeswoman Jennifer Jacobs.

"To fix this they're going to have to go back to the people for a vote, which can't even happen for another two years," she said. Brown will not appeal last month's ruling by Second Appellate District three-judge panel in a Los Angeles County case.

"There is no question that the voters who approved Proposition 57 intended (inmates) serving Three Strikes indeterminate sentences to be eligible for early parole consideration," the appeals court ruled, adding that, "There is strong evidence the voters who approved Proposition 57 sought to provide relief to nonviolent offenders."

The administration first ar-

gued that they were ineligible because they face indeterminate life sentences and later added that "public safety requires their exclusion." The appeals court found that officials were "devising an argument ... that is at war" with the measure's plan language.

Michael Romano, director of the Stanford Three Strikes Project, called the administration's decision to comply "monumental" and "one of the biggest decisions on sentencing policy in the Brown administration."

Among the 4,000 inmates he estimated will be eligible for parole are clients serving life terms for stealing a bicycle, possessing less than half a gram of methamphetamine, stealing two bottles of liquor or shoplifting shampoo, said Romano, whose project represented third-strike inmates in several appeals. They are disproportionately black, disproportionately mentally ill and statistically among the least likely to commit additional crimes, said Romano, who has studied the issue.

He cited corrections department data on more than 2,200 third strikers who were paroled under a 2012

Associated Press

ballot measure that allowed most inmates serving life terms for relatively minor third strikes to ask courts for shorter terms. Less than 11 percent returned to prison by October 2016, the latest data available, he said, compared to nearly 45 percent of other prisoners.

McGeorge School of Law professor Michael Vitiello expects law enforcement and victims' groups may challenge earlier releases for sex offenders, but said there is less chance of success for a ballot measure that would again bar third-strikers from parole.

"You couch it in the frame of nonviolent third-strike offenders who have been put away for far too long," said Vitiello, an expert on the three strikes law. "That comes kind of squarely within the public's perception that we've overdone it."

Not so with sex offenders, who "evoke horror in the public's mind," he said. Even liberal California lawmakers passed a new law responding to a short sentence for former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner for sexually assaulting an intoxicated woman, while voters recalled the sentencing judge. □

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All Illinois Catholic dioceses targeted in sex abuse lawsuit

By **DON BABWIN**
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Three men and one woman who say they were sexually abused by priests decades ago filed a lawsuit Thursday against every diocese in Illinois for an alleged ongoing scheme to cover up sexual assault by priests.

The lawsuit was filed in Chicago by attorney Jeff Anderson, who has represented clergy abuse victims across the country, and seeks to compel dioceses throughout Illinois to provide the names of all their priests accused of child molestation.

"Defendants have, for decades, and continue to adopt policies and practices of covering up criminal activity...(that) have endangered numerous children in the past and these practices will continue to put children at risk in the future," reads the lawsuit against all six dioceses in Illinois, as well as the Catholic



In this Sept. 25, 2018 file photo, attorney for clergy abuse survivors, Jeff Anderson, right, embraced a man after a U.S. Bankruptcy Court approved a settlement that includes \$210 million for victims of clergy sex abuse, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Conference of Illinois.

While the lawsuit does seek damages and only claims instances of abuse against children in three dioceses — Rockford, Peoria and Springfield — all of them have been and continue to cover up clergy sexual abuse, Anderson said.

He added that a key goal of the suit is to force each diocese to make public

the names of all priests, living and dead, accused of child molestation. He pointed to a similar lawsuit filed in Minnesota that eventually forced the Archdiocese of St. Paul to add dozens of names to the list of credibly accused priests.

Anderson also filed a similar lawsuit in California earlier this month.

The lawsuit contends that

while some dioceses have turned over information about certain priests accused of sexually molesting children, others refuse to make the names public. The Belleville and Rockford dioceses, the suit said, have not named a combined 53 priests accused of child molestation since 1950.

"All of them have covered up and continue to cover up, are guilty of withholding their files and we are seeking to force the bishops to come clean, to require that all of them disclose fully the names of all the offenders they know who have violated children... in their diocese," Anderson said.

The Archdiocese of Chicago said in a statement that while officials had not reviewed the lawsuit, the diocese has in recent years taken significant steps to address the issue, including posting the names of priests who have been credibly accused of child sexual abuse on its website.

The Chicago diocese has implemented a "stringent monitoring program of clergy with substantiated cases of sexual abuse against them," the statement said. The Diocese of Joliet disputed any suggestion that it's withholding information. In a statement, the diocese said that since 2006 it has kept on its website a list of "living and deceased diocesan priests who have been credibly accused of child sexual abuse."

In Peoria, the diocese in a statement defended its handling of allegations against two priests named in the lawsuit. In one case, the diocese said that upon learning of the allegations it immediately placed the priest on leave and reported the allegation to police. Only after the police concluded its investigation, and the Diocesan Review commission found the allegation unsubstantiated, was the priest reinstated in ministry. □

Poll finds Trump's pro-Israel stance does not sway U.S. Jews

By **ISABEL DEBRE**
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Donald Trump's pro-Israel positions have not garnered him support from American Jewish voters, according to a new survey. The poll found that 74 percent of Jews planned to vote for Democratic candidates in November's midterm elections. The figure corresponds with similar voting patterns in past elections.

Overall, 75 percent of American Jews disapproved of the president's policies, particularly on domestic issues such as immigration, taxes and health care. The survey was conducted by the Mellman Group, a U.S. polling agency, for the nonpartisan Jewish Electorate Institute. It surveyed 800 American Jewish voters from a variety of backgrounds and geographic areas and had a margin of error of 3.5 per-

centage points. Trump's foreign policy fared no better, with widespread criticism of the president's handling of anti-Semitism, the Iranian nuclear deal and his moving of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The embassy move, in contrast, has been warmly welcomed in Israel.

While a slim majority approved of Trump's warm relations with Israel, only 6 percent said this will cause them to consider support-

ing him or a Republican candidate. Over 60 percent disapproved of how Trump has dealt with the Palestinians. The Palestinians severed ties with the U.S. after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital last December. Since then, the U.S. has cut hundreds of millions of dollars of support for the Palestinians.

Although 92 percent of American Jews identified as "pro-Israel," 59 percent said they find fault with at

least some of the Israeli government's policies. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has forged a close bond with Trump, deepening a rift with the mostly liberal Jewish American community. The survey confirms Jewish voters' entrenched loyalty to the Democratic party, "negative assessments" of Trump and show that they "prioritize domestic issues in deciding which candidate to support," the poll's authors said. □

EU looks to African nations, border control to stop migrants

By **LORNE COOK**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders agreed Thursday to pursue the co-operation of countries in North Africa and to beef up the bloc's external borders to stop large numbers of migrants from entering Europe.

A statement from an EU summit in Brussels where the leaders of member countries discussed migration emphasized the need to work with the countries that Europe-bound migrants depart from or travel through.

Working with those countries on "investigating, apprehending and prosecuting" smugglers and traffickers that take refugees and economic migrants on dangerous journeys by land and sea should be intensified," the leaders said. Well over 1 million migrants entered Europe in 2015, most of them Syrians and Iraqis fleeing conflicts in their homelands. The number of arrivals dropped significantly after the EU struck a deal with Turkey to stem



Vafin, 16, centre, from Guinea Conakry, sits with other migrants on the deck of Open Arms vessel, after they were rescued by the Spanish NGO Pro Activa Open Arms, about 40 miles (64 kms) from the Spanish coasts, on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018.

the influx. Turkey was offered at least 3 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) in aid for Syrian refugees in exchange for efforts to prevent migrants from leaving for Europe. The EU wants to reproduce the model elsewhere.

The EU leaders also called for an improvement in external border surveillance, without going into details.

One reason the EU has looked outside for solutions is the refusal by some member countries to accept refugee quotas or to share the job of hosting the newcomers, the majority of whom arrive via a handful of southern European nations.

Mediterranean countries such as Greece, Italy and

more recently Spain have complained of being abandoned to manage the influx alone. Tensions over how best to handle migrant arrivals — which pale in comparison to the number of refugees fleeing to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan — have fueled support for far-right parties in Europe. Amid the standoff

over quotas, momentum is gathering for countries to pay more money — to destination countries like Greece and Italy, for example, or for development aid to countries of origin — instead of hosting refugees. European Parliament President Antonio Tajani said such a strategy might work. "It's possible, no refugees but more money," Tajani told reporters, adding that it must be substantial funds, "not nothing, not peanuts." But German Chancellor Angela Merkel questioned the idea of "solidarity commitments."

"The title sounds good, but if everyone says, 'The commitment to solidarity I am choosing is the solidarity of giving more money for Africa,' then we won't have solved certain problems and the arrival countries will be left alone again," Merkel said.

Migration experts and non-profit organizations have expressed doubt about the effectiveness of any scheme that doesn't involve relocating refugees to more countries. □

Associated Press

EU chief plays down trans-Atlantic trade rift concerns



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker speaks during a media conference at an EU summit in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is playing down trans-Atlantic trade tensions after U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross accused the EU of dragging its feet in exploratory trade talks. Amid fears of an all-out trade war, Juncker met U.S. President Donald Trump in July to start talks intended to achieve "zero tariffs" and "zero subsidies" on non-automotive industrial goods.

Juncker said Thursday that what he and Trump "have agreed, and what the two of us are committed to, will be done."

After meeting with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, Ross said Wednesday that "we really need tangible progress. The president's patience is not unlimited."

Malmstrom says EU requests for talks on a limited deal appear to have been ignored "so the ball is in their court." □

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Taliban attack kills top Afghan officials, US general unhurt

By KATHY GANNON
AMIR SHAH

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A high-level meeting to lay out security plans for Afghanistan's upcoming parliamentary elections had just concluded when an elite Afghan guard turned his gun Thursday on the departing delegation in an attack that killed the powerful Kandahar police chief but missed the top U.S. commander in the country, Gen. Scott Miller.

The audacious assassination strike, which killed at least one other senior Afghan official and was claimed by the Taliban, underscored the harrowing lack of security in Afghanistan just two days before national elections and more than 17 years after the militant group was driven from power. A Taliban spokesman said Miller was the intended target.

However, Army Col. David Butler, who attended the Kandahar meeting with Miller, said the region's powerful police chief, Abdul Raziq, who was killed in the volley of gunfire, was clearly the target, not the U.S. general.

"It was pretty clear he was shooting at Raziq," Butler told The Associated Press, adding that Miller was nearby but not in the line of fire. The delegates had just gathered for a group photo when gunfire broke out inside the provincial governor's compound in Kandahar City, according to an AP television cameraman who was present when the shooting began. Everyone



Afghan National army soldiers search a car at a checkpoint ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for Oct. 20, at the Independent Election Commission compound in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018.

scattered, and the U.S. participants scrambled toward their nearby helicopter. But a firefight broke out between the U.S. service members and Afghan police when they tried to stop the U.S. delegation from reaching their helicopter, said the cameraman. Besides Raziq, Kandahar's intelligence chief, Abdul Mohmin was killed in the attack, according to deputy provincial governor Agha Lala Dastageri. He said Kandahar Gov. Zalmay Wesa also died of his wounds after being taken to a local hospital, although security officials in the capital maintained Wesa was wounded but survived.

Three Americans — a U.S. service member, a coalition contractor and an American civilian — were

injured and in stable condition, said NATO spokesman U.S. Col. Knut Peters.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the militant group carried out the attack, and Gen. Miller was the target.

Butler disputed that, saying the assailant shot at Raziq and then appeared to spray the area with gunfire before he was killed.

He said Miller and the Afghan leaders had moved outside the palace after several hours of meetings and were standing in small groups in the compound. He said he heard several shots "and we all took cover. It was over in seconds."

"We stabilized and treated the wounded and secured the area," said Butler, adding that Miller made sure the scene was secure and

the wounded were taken away by medivac before he left the area and returned to Kabul.

Raziq was a particularly powerful figure in southern Kandahar and a close U.S. ally despite widespread allegations of corruption. He ruled in Kandahar, the former Taliban heartland, with an iron fist and had survived several attempts to kill him, including one last year that resulted in the death of five diplomats from the United Arab Emirates.

Raziq's killing "may have major implications on the security situation in southern Afghanistan. As the chief of police in Kandahar, he has kept a lid on the Taliban's insurgency, which has intensified over the past several years," analyst Bill Roggio wrote in the

Long War Journal. The Taliban have vowed to disrupt Saturday's parliamentary elections, warning teachers and students not to allow schools to be used for polling and warning Afghans to stay away from the polls. Within hours of the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani addressed the nation to assure Kandahar residents it was safe to go to the polls. In an AP interview, his adviser, Ziaulhaq Amarkhil said the attack was meant to disrupt elections and urged voters to defy Taliban threats, saying casting their ballot "would be a big slap on the face of the enemy."

At a news conference in the Afghan capital, Afghanistan's Army Chief Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali said additional troops had been moved from neighboring Helmand province to Kandahar. Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, and its military chief condemned the assault.

"The people and the security forces of Afghanistan have been paying a heavy price due to continued instability and threats from the enemies of peace," Khan said in a statement. "Pakistan stands by the government and the people of Afghanistan in their quest for lasting peace and stability."

Security has been steadily deteriorating in Afghanistan with increasingly brazen attacks being carried out by insurgents and Afghanistan's security forces have been on high alert ahead of Saturday's elections. □

Man linked to Saudi prince at consulate when writer vanished

By SUZAN FRASER
SARAH EL DEEB
JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A member of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's entourage during several trips abroad walked into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul just before writer Jamal Khashoggi vanished there, a surveillance photo leaked Thursday shows, drawing the kingdom's heir-apparent closer to the columnist's alleged slaying. The man, identified by Turkish officials as Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, has been photographed in the background of Prince Mohammed's trips to the U.S., France and Spain this year. Turkish officials say he flew into Istanbul on a private jet along with an "autopsy expert" Oct. 2 and left that night. That was the same day Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who wrote critically of Prince Mohammed's rise to power, entered the consulate and was not seen again. Saudi Arabia, which initially called the allegations "baseless," has not responded to repeated requests for comment from The Associated Press over recent days, including on Thursday over Mutreb's identification. The AP could not immediately reach Mutreb for comment. But Mutreb's appearance at the consulate, as well as later at the consul general's residence, adds to the growing pressure on Saudi Arabia amid international outrage over the disappearance of the writer, whom Turkish officials say was killed and dismembered. In a further sign of that pressure, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he will not attend an investment conference in Saudi Arabia, as did senior government officials from France, Britain and the Netherlands. Several top business executives have also canceled plans to attend, as has the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde. President Donald Trump,



In a frame from surveillance camera footage taken Oct. 2, 2018, and published Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, a man identified by Turkish officials as Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, walks toward the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul before writer Jamal Khashoggi disappeared.

Associated Press

who first came out hard on the Saudis over the disappearance but had since has backed off, said Thursday that it "certainly looks" as though Khashoggi is dead, and that the consequences for the Saudis "will have to be very severe" if they are found to have killed him. Analysts say that as long as the Saudis refuse to acknowledge what happened to Khashoggi, the leaks about the case will probably continue. "Turkey wants to show to the world that it cannot be ignoble, selling values and principles in political deals with U.S. or Saudi to try to bury the truth and come up with an acceptable scenario," said Yusuf Katipoglu, a Turkish analyst. The pro-government Sabah newspaper on Thursday first published the images of Mutreb, showing him walking past police barricades at the consulate at 9:55 a.m. with several men trailing behind him. Khashoggi arrived at the consulate several hours later at 1:14 p.m., then disappeared while his fiancée waited outside for him. A report Wednesday by the pro-government newspa-

per Yeni Safak, citing what it described as an audio recording of Khashoggi's slaying, said a Saudi team immediately accosted the 60-year-old journalist after he entered the consulate, cutting off his fingers and later decapitating him. Previously leaked surveillance footage showed consular vehicles moving from the consulate to the consul general's official residence, some 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) away, a little under two hours after Khashoggi walked inside. The Sabah-published picture showed an image of the Mutreb at 4:53 p.m. at the consul's home, then at 5:15 p.m. checking out of a hotel. He later cleared an airport security check at 5:58 p.m. before flying out of Istanbul. Mutreb's name matches that of a first secretary who once served as a diplomat at the Saudi Embassy in London, according to a 2007 list compiled by the British Foreign Office. The same name also appears in an email published by WikiLeaks from the 2015 breach of surveillance company Hacking Team of Saudi officials being trained to use their software. That breach

showed how governments were increasingly turning to mercenary hackers-for-hire to pry into the cellphones and computers of their domestic opponents. Mutreb's identity was confirmed by Turkish officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing. Mutreb also was identified in state and pro-government media reports. It's unclear what relationship Mutreb has with Prince Mohammed. Images shot by the Houston Chronicle and later distributed by the AP show Mutreb in Prince Mohammed's entourage when he visited a Houston subdivision in April to see rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Harvey. The same man wore lapel pins, including one of the U.S. and Saudi flags intertwined, that other bodyguards accompanying Prince Mohammed wore on the trip. The three-week trip across the U.S. saw Prince Mohammed meet with business leaders and celebrities, including Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, who now owns the Post. The Sabah report came as Turkish crime-scene investigators finished an over-

night search of both the consul general's residence and a second search of the consulate itself. Authorities have not said specifically what they found, although technicians carried out bags and boxes from the consul general's home. He left Turkey on Tuesday. The searches and the leaks in Turkish media have ensured attention remains focused on what happened to Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist who went into a self-imposed exile in the U.S. after the rise of Prince Mohammed. It also put further strains on the relationship between the kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, and its main security guarantor, the U.S., as tensions with Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East remain high. After briefing Trump on Thursday on his talks this week with leaders in Saudi Arabia and Turkey, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he told the Saudi rulers that the U.S. takes "very seriously" the disappearance of Khashoggi and will await the outcome of investigations by the kingdom and Turkey before deciding how to respond. Meanwhile, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and Reporters Without Borders jointly called for a U.N. investigation of the Khashoggi disappearance. "If the government of Saudi Arabia is not involved in Jamal Khashoggi's fate, it has the most to gain in seeing an impartial U.N. investigation determine what happened," said Sherine Tadros of Amnesty International. "Without a credible U.N. inquiry, there will always be a cloud of suspicion hanging over Saudi Arabia, no matter what its leadership says to explain away how Khashoggi vanished." The Post published Thursday what it described as Khashoggi's last column, in which he pointed to the muted international response to ongoing abuses against journalists by governments in the Middle East. □

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GROCERY SHOP
ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Putin: Russia 'ahead of competition' with latest weapons****By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press**

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin hailed new missiles in Russia's military arsenals but emphasized Thursday that the country would only use its nuclear weapons in response to an incoming missile attack.

He voiced confidence that Russia could resist Western pressure and expressed hope that U.S. President Donald Trump eventually would move to repair fractured ties with Russia.

Speaking at an international policy forum in Sochi, Putin noted that Russia's military doctrine doesn't envisage a preventative nuclear strike. He said Moscow only would tap its nuclear arsenal if early warning systems spotted missiles heading toward Russia.

"Only when we become convinced that there is an incoming attack on the territory of Russia, and that happens within seconds, only after that we would launch a retaliatory strike," he said during a panel discussion at the forum.

"It would naturally mean a



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks at meeting of Valdai International Discussion Club in Sochi, Russia, on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

global catastrophe, but I want to emphasize that we can't be those who initiate it because we don't foresee a preventive strike," Putin said. "The aggressor should know that retaliation is inevitable, and he will be destroyed."

"We would be victims of an aggression and would get to heaven as martyrs," while those who initiated the aggression would "just die and not even have time to repent," he added.

The Russian leader also warned that new hypersonic missiles his country developed give it a military edge.

"We have run ahead of the competition. No one has precision hypersonic weapons," he said. "Others are planning to start testing them within the next 1½ to 2 years, and we already have them on duty."

Russia already has deployed the Kinzhal hypersonic missile. Putin said

that another new weapon, the Avangard, is set to enter service in the next few months.

Earlier this year, Putin said the Avangard has an intercontinental range and can fly in the atmosphere at a speed 20 times the speed of sound, making it capable of piercing any missile defense system.

His blunt talk Thursday comes as Russia-West relations remain frosty over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and the allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential vote. Putin said he still hoped Trump would be able to improve the ties between their countries. He thinks Trump wants "some sort of stabilization and improvement of U.S.-Russian ties" and said Moscow is ready for that "at any moment." Putin said his meeting with Trump in Helsinki in July was positive and they had a "normal, professional dialogue" even though their exchange brought strong criticism for Trump. He dismissed the dynamic as the result of "the internal politi-

cal struggle."

"Some people think that playing the Russian card is a very convenient instrument for solving internal political problems," Putin said. "I hope it will go away. I don't know if it happens after the congressional elections, but it might. Or it may happen after the 2020 U.S. presidential election, when he will no longer have to constantly look back at those who engage in anti-Russian rhetoric."

At the same time, the Russian president sharply criticized Washington's reliance on sanctions against Russia and others, saying the instrument of punishment "undermines trust in the dollar as a universal payment instrument and the main reserve currency." "It's a typical mistake made by an empire," Putin said. "An empire always thinks that it's so powerful that it can afford some mistakes and extra costs. But mistakes and costs multiply, and a moment comes when they become overwhelming in both security and economic spheres." □



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Mother, daughter desperate to leave Venezuela flee on foot

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**
Associated Press
PAMPLONA, Colombia (AP)

— As night approached, Sandra Cadiz wrapped her shivering 10-year-old daughter in a blanket and prayed for a ride up the frigid Colombian mountain-top known as “the icebox.” Two days before, the mother and daughter had fled Venezuela on foot for a 2,700-mile trek through four countries to Peru, joining more than 650 migrants who walk out each day because they cannot afford a plane or bus ticket. Cadiz knew not everyone survived the dangerous trek, but she feared staying in Venezuela would mean her already malnourished daughter going hungry. Now, after five hours of waiting, Cadiz braced herself for a long, cold night sleeping on the ground outside a gas station. “I am doing this for her,” Cadiz, 51, said of her daughter Angelis.

In one of the biggest migrations in the world today, more than 1.9 million people have fled poverty, hunger and crime in Venezuela since 2015 — rivaling the flow of Middle Eastern and African refugees to Europe. Although the toll of this migration is largely invisible, data collected by AP from various agencies found that deaths and disappearances could reach a few thousand, depending on how they are counted. At least 235 Venezuelans were reported missing in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador over the last two years. Some 334 in Colombia were killed in homicides and accidents, and an unknown number drowned aboard shoddy boats in the Caribbean. Another 2,841 died in Colombia from illnesses like malaria and malnutrition; though it's difficult to know exactly what role migration played, many arrive weakened by the exodus. “They can't withstand a

trip that hard, because the journey is very long,” said Carlos Valdes, the head of Colombia's forensic service.

“Let's go, mama,” Angelis told her. “I'll walk in my broken shoes.” The trek through Colom-

Officials could not confirm any deaths but concede they may never have been reported.

selves stranded at a gas station in a remote area known only as “Kilometer 17.”

“We're trapped,” Cadiz told her son in a WhatsApp voice message. But she had no cell signal, so the cry for help didn't go through.

They spent that night on the floor beneath a mechanic's tin roof. Exhausted, mother and daughter wept.

The next day, Cadiz decided to switch her strategy: She had collected 250,000 pesos — about \$82 — from generous Colombians and would use the money to bargain for seats on buses. That day they finally made their way to Cali and then bought two bus tickets to Ecuador.

At the border, a man told Cadiz he'd buy any Venezuelan bolivars she might have. Cadiz took out all that was left of her life savings.

The man offered her fifty cents.

After more than four hours in lines, Cadiz finally reached a migration agent. She stared at Angelis' national identification card and let them through. Cadiz's relief was visible as she smiled for a photo beneath a “Thanks for Visiting Ecuador” sign.

Once across the border, they got on a bus to Peru — provided for free by the Ecuadorean government. Twenty hours later, they emerged hungry and suffering from nausea and indigestion.

Eight days after fleeing Caracas, Angelis and her mother had reached their final border. The next day, Cadiz pulled her documents out of a crinkled Hello Kitty folder one last time. After reviewing them carefully, a migration agent asked Angelis to step in front of a camera. She grinned ear to ear.

“Calm down,” the agent told her coldly. “Don't smile.”

By the time they reached Lima, they didn't have a cent in their pockets. But they had made it.

“I arrived by a miracle,” Cadiz said. □



In this Sept. 3, 2018 photo, Venezuelan Sandra Cadiz and her 10-year-old daughter Angelis, thank gas station worker Manuel Velasquez after he helped them get a ride in the cabin of a truck in Peroles, Colombia, on their journey to Peru.

Associated Press

es office. “They don't eat and they die.”

The daughter of a housewife and a cemetery worker, Cadiz got pregnant at 15 and dropped out of school. One husband was killed in a robbery, another in a motorcycle accident. Her oldest child died at 25 in a hail of 20 bullets by an unknown killer.

As food became harder to find, Cadiz and her daughter frequently slept outside supermarkets to grab whatever was available when doors opened. Over the summer, her son, his wife and their baby fled on foot to Peru.

When the government announced a bonus to help Venezuelans transition to a new currency with five fewer zeroes, Cadiz saw her chance to buy two bus tickets to the border with Colombia. That night she told Angelis they could spend the money on new shoes, or they could reunite with her brother in Peru.

bia often starts on illegal dirt trails across the border ruled by armed men. Three days before Cadiz and Angelis left, police found the corpse of a 44-year-old father shot five times.

In Cucuta alone, officials have 37 unidentified bodies believed to belong to Venezuelans.

“They die and we don't know who they are,” Valdes said.

Cadiz boarded a bus to the Colombian border with her passport — Angelis didn't have one — and a handwritten death certificate for Angelis' father. At the border, they got separated amid a swarm of migrants. A frantic Cadiz finally spotted her daughter on the other side; she had slipped through without being asked to show a passport. The next day they set off walking toward the Colombian mountain highland known as the Berlin paramo, where temperatures can dip to 10 degrees below freezing. Anny Uribe, who runs a refuge for migrant walkers, said she has heard direct witness accounts of at least 17 people dying in the paramo.

Migrant Isaia Alberto Munoz, 34, said he saw a family digging a hole and crying along the side of the road, as they buried someone wrapped in a white blanket with red flowers. His group decided they could not stop to help.

“We couldn't withstand the cold,” he said.

Cadiz was terrified she and her daughter would get stranded and die. But after spending the night at the gas station in the freezing cold, they decided to take their chances and walk.

Over five hours later, Alba Camacho and a friend spotted them. The 27-year-old teacher stopped, wrapped Angelis in her own thick blue coat and took the pair to her friend's home for the night, where Cadiz heard Angelis talking in her sleep.

“I don't want to walk anymore!” she cried out.

Early the next morning they set off on foot again, walking and hitching rides, but the progress was agonizingly slow.

By the following evening, they were barely a quarter of the way from Venezuela to Peru. They found them-

LOCAL



Monumentenfonds starts with restoration stage of Ex-Botica Aruba



ORANJESTAD — In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA), which is the monuments foundation, bought the Ex-Botica Aruba (pharmacy) building situated at Steenweg 19.

Generally, before buying buildings there are some requirements that the SMFA demands beforehand. One of these requirements is that there must be a long-term renter so the process of acquiring the monument can continue.

In the case of the building on Steenweg, there wasn't any long-term renter at the time of purchase, and due to the circumstances, this building could become in danger in the hands of merchants who would have thrown it down.

After the building was bought, it was declared as a protected monument and received its seal from the Monument Bureau, which is the department of the government in charge of protecting local monuments.

SMFA at the moment is preparing to restore the façade of this building. The first stage is investigating and design, this will be in

the hands of the architect Leo Ponson from Archiosa under the guidance of the project leader Xavier Arends. After this, a public tender will take place and then the renovation begins.

As soon as a rental agreement is finalized, SMFA will restore the inside of the building to the specifications of the tenant. They are always open for interested tenants, whether it's to rent or to look for a monumental building. All interested tenants can contact Stichting Monumentenfonds via their site www.monumentenfondsaruba.com or pass by their office.

SMFA is proud to contribute to the preserving of the cultural heritage so this can be shared with the community and also visitors coming to Aruba.

About the Monument Fund

The Monument Fund acquires or buys buildings and restores them back into their former glory. After restoration, they adapt and rent these spaces. "That sounds easy, but it is incredibly complex because most monuments have multiple owners, and due to the fact that inheritances are split, all parties must be in



agreement upon selling." They cooperate with the government office of monuments because they set the rules of what you can and cannot do to a protected monument.

"We also have the task to maintain the buildings which is an ongoing process. The wind, the salt in the air and the sun that not only burns human bodies but also buildings are huge challenges. Next to that they educate, create awareness and maintain public relations about our monuments." Some of

the monuments owned by the Monument fund Aruba are the light house, town hall, and the water tanks in both, San Nicolas and Oranjestad.

The office of the Monument Fund is actually located in a monument itself. The building is beautiful and has a tropical style. "This house goes back to the 1920's when it was built as a vacation house by Aruban entrepreneur Croes. He and his family came here to the outdoors as in those times there was only cunucu (countryside)

here. They had big parties and enjoyed leisure time with family and friends." Richer Arubans at that time looked outwards for architecture inspiration as that was considered chic.

The Monument fund Aruba is open every day from Monday to Friday from 8 to 5. You are more than welcome to ask for information, guiding and help. For more information check their Facebook page Stichting Monumenten Fonds Aruba and the website www.monumentenfondsaruba.com. □



Condominiums with a Plus



EAGLE BEACH — Imagine: a white-sanded beach, blue-turquoise ocean, inviting pool with lazy sun beds and an amazing residence where you feel home, no actually: it IS your home. A dream come true as you are the owner of a condominium at Azure Beach Residences, right on the foot of Aruba's Eagle Beach, a multiple rewarded beach being the best in the Caribbean. Aruba Today talked to one of the enthusiastic sales representatives of this piece of heaven, Marinelda Cataya.

All condominiums face the clear blue ocean with the white-sandy beaches, even the ones on the ground floor. Tower I is completed and space wise you cannot go wrong: the 2 -bedroom condominiums are 1024 sq. ft. and the 3-bedroom units 1670 sq. ft. Storage is included so just leave your chairs and bicycles locked up, even when you rent out your units, rooms are offered in lock offs meaning your personal belongings stay safe in one locked bedroom while the rest of the place can be rented out. Tower II is in construction and will have studios and 1-bedroom units. "And we have our sepa-

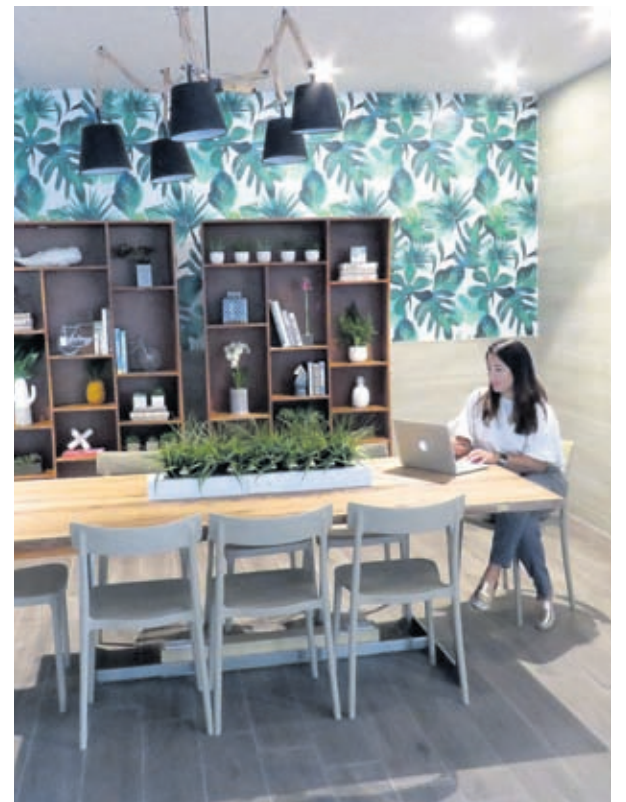
rate building The Club House ready. We are very proud to show it."

We Can Show the Product

The big plus about this project is that you can actually see the result already, you do not buy from a drawing, and at Azure they can show you the end result for real. The construction of Tower II is running according to schedule, the condominiums are divided and planned to be ready in 2020. This tower has studios and 1-bedroom apartments, Tower I has only 2- and 3- bedroom units", Marinelda explains. Either for investment or pleasure, this is a great opportunity. "The interior of Tower II will differ as we will use more colors and natural elements like wood. Tower I is mainly in white styling. Quality is high, we are going for the newest technology with regards to windows for example. A soft opening is scheduled for the realtors and media to show the product."

Cozy Club House

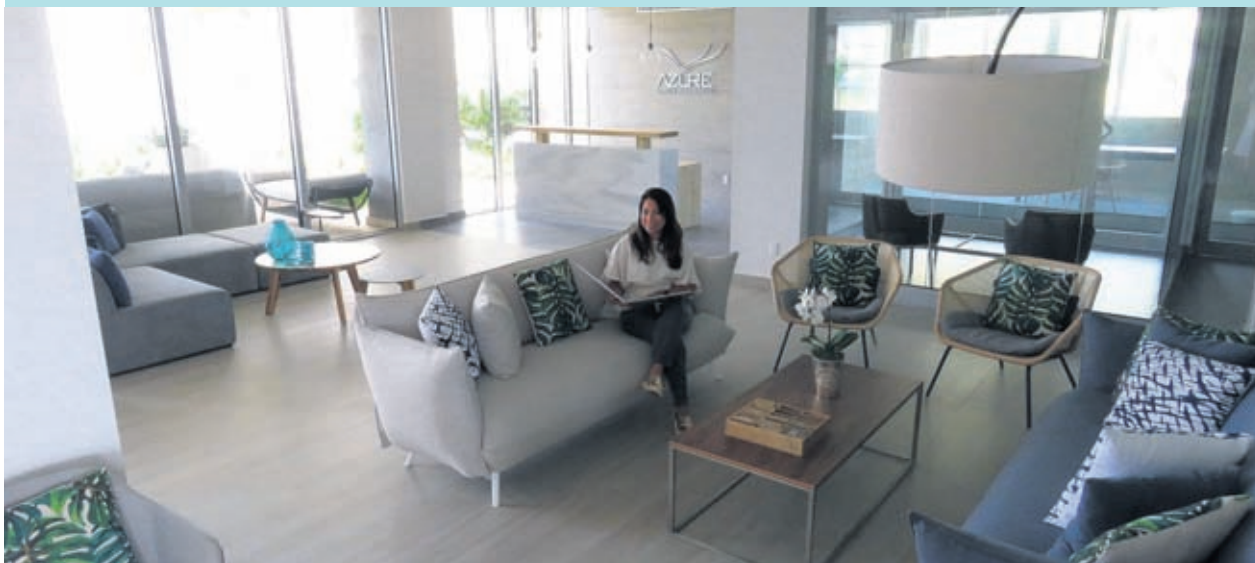
Guests are already using the facilities of the residence and remodeling their homes. "The



Club House is finished now and I can tell you honestly that the amenities we have here are unique. They are different from the other condominiums because we have a separate building where we offer a nice lobby, a restaurant bar, the owners club with a pool table, and where you can play chess or any kind of game and an outside area with BBQ/grills so you can bring your family and friends along", says Marinelda. "It creates that family, intimate, homey feeling. By the way we share amenities with Blue Residences where they have a playground for kids as well as a beach tennis field." The Club House restaurant is a kind of open lobby bar with breakfast, lunch and dinner available. The fitness has an amazing view likewise the members club which offers laptop connections and WIFI of course. Other amenities are two infinity pools, a Jacuzzi area and a tennis court. "Important to mention is that we are energy efficient as all units have double glass, we use a well for watering the garden and solar panels for lightning. We are most eco-friendly as possible." says Marinelda. In her opinion potential buyers want to feel trust and that is exactly what Azure offers as you see the finished result of Tower I where they almost sold all units. "So you can feel comfortable with the investment. Unique also is that you will find few condominiums right in front of the beach, so your sunset and ocean view are included. Your condo is delivered with luxury appliances, her you meet the comfort of a resort yet the privacy of your own place. Your home with the convenience of the resort."

For more information you can visit the website [http:// www.azure-aruba.com](http://www.azure-aruba.com). The sales office is open every week day from 9 AM -5 PM, Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM. □

Harbour House is another project of this group that will be launched soon in downtown, offering 94 condominiums, just in front of Renaissance Mall. Studio's and 2-3 bedrooms, a 360 degrees view gym and Jacuzzi on top. Located in the former Marasul building. More information can be found at: [www. Harbourhousearuba.com](http://www.Harbourhousearuba.com)



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Transform Seminar 2018: Overcome Your Fear

ORANJESTAD — "While presenting my leadership courses and being active as a motivational speaker, I've observed that most people don't deal with their fears. Fear is an emotion we all experience but we have to learn to control it instead of letting fear control us", says Charisse Hoen, organizer and facilitator of the Transform Seminar 2018 at the University of Aruba.

There is no bigger enemy to growth than fear. Fear worms inside you like a poison; it paralyzes you, weakens you, makes you doubt yourself and slowly kills all of your dreams. If left unchecked it grows stronger than you desire, your passion and the things that motivate you. Basically, it is the intention of this seminar to have a conversation that matters with the participants and share a few practical ways to turn fear into positive action.

Interactive

Charisse Hoen noticed during the check in of her Leadership Sessions that many people are afraid. "Fear for the unknown, fear for failure, fear to be left out and fear not to be understood. It's the everyday fear we all deal with. In a small community like this everyone wants to belong somewhere and they are afraid to fall out of that and where are they going to go when that happens? Being mediocre and not really truth to ourselves will not help us, so this seminar will be a tool to break through that." In her experience it is a matter to share it and learn to deal with it. The seminar is interactive, so you literally get the tools to act. Nobody is forced, it is up to you if you want to ob-



serve or take part into the action.

The seminar objectives:

- To describe the signs, symptoms and behavioral indicators of fear.
- To identify areas in one's life where there is fear
- To acquire skills to cope and manage fear
- To adopt an attitude of living life without fear

Target audience and industries:

Entrepreneurs, house wives, business owners, the general public. Age preference: 25 -60 years. At the end of the seminar, participants will receive a certification of

attendance.

The language of instruction: English and Papiamentu

Facilitator: Bert Wielenga, Clementia Eugene, Rosemarie Hoen, Junior Rivero and Charisse

Method: Interactive form, exercise and dealing with fear the mindful way.

Location and Dates:

Location: University of Aruba

Time: 9:30 PM - 12:30 PM (midday)

Date: October 27th, 2018

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Economic Activity in Latin America and the Caribbean will Expand by 1.3% in 2018 and 1.8% in 2019

ARUBA — The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reviewed economic growth projections for the region for 2018 and expects an average expansion of 1.3% in Latin America and the Caribbean this year, slightly lower than that forecast this past August (1.5%). It foresees a growth rate of 1.8% for 2019, according to a press release issued today by the United Nations' organization.

As usual, the growth dynamic across countries and subregions will vary, says ECLAC. The economies of South America, which specialize in the production of primary goods, particularly oil, minerals and foods, are expected to grow at a positive rate (0.7%) this year, slightly lower than last year. A better performance is expected for this subregion in 2019, with estimated growth of 1.6% on average.

As for the economies of Central America, growth



of 3.2% is estimated for this year and 3.3% for 2019. If Central America and Mexico are both taken into account, the projection for 2018 is 2.4% and 2.5% for 2019.

Average expected growth for the English- or Dutch-speaking Caribbean is 1.9% for 2018, a higher revised figure compared to the August projection, mainly due to a more vigorous oil sector in Trinidad and Tobago, the largest economy in the subregion, and influenced in some cases by spending efforts on post-natural disaster reconstruction. The

growth rate expected for the Caribbean region is 2.1%.

Projections for 2019 are in a context of increasing uncertainty and medium-term risks, ECLAC points out. An ongoing risk for emerging economies in general, and for Latin America and the Caribbean in particular, is further deterioration of the international financial environment. The high levels of corporate and sovereign debt accumulated over years of lax global financial conditions constitute a risk for some economies that are more exposed to

changes in the financial scenario (greater needs for external financing, greater proportion of foreign currency debt and short-term debt, among others). Moreover, trade tensions have been escalating in recent months. Although these have still only been reflected in moderate revisions to the low volume projected for world trade and global economic activity for 2019, they constitute a risk to regional economic activity. Trade tensions pose a risk not only to global trade and world economic growth in the

medium term, but also to raw materials prices and global financial conditions as a whole, generally linked to greater or lesser risk perception.

In light of this international scenario, internal demand will play an important role in the region's growth over the coming year, added ECLAC. Albeit with differences between countries, investment is expected to play a greater role, with private consumption continuing to be a major engine for internal demand in 2019. □



SPORTS



San Antonio Spurs guard DeMar DeRozan (10) shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves guard Jimmy Butler (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in San Antonio.

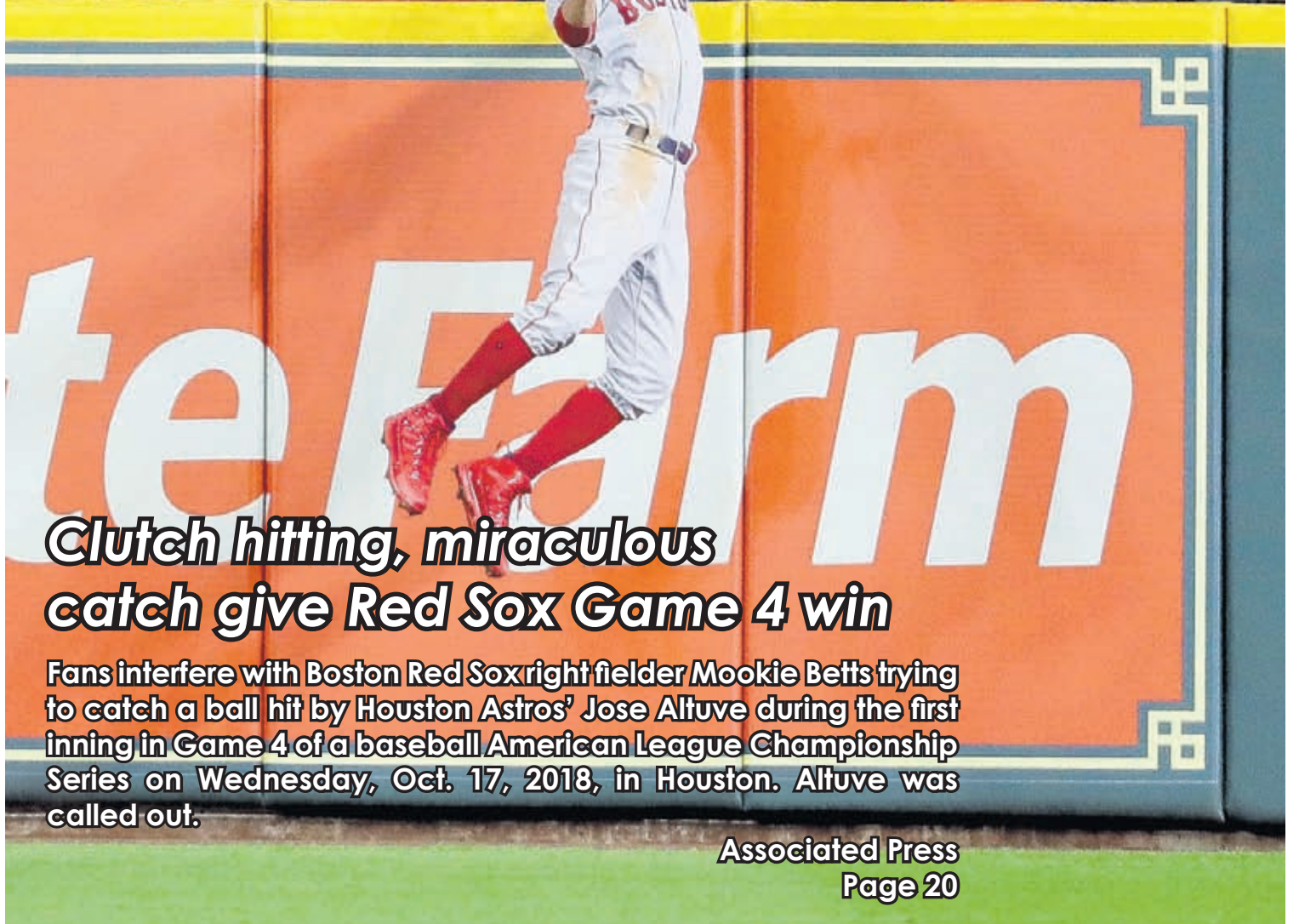
Associated Press

DeRozan, Aldridge lead Spurs past T-wolves

By The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan had 28 points in his San Antonio debut, LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points and 19 rebounds and the Spurs overcame a 23-point performance by Minnesota's Jimmy Butler in a 112-108 victory Wednesday night in a matchup of teams coming off a tumultuous offseason. DeRozan was acquired from Toronto after the Spurs responded to Kawhi Leonard's trade demands by dealing their star forward and Danny Green for the Raptors' All-Star guard and Jakob Poeltl. Minnesota is facing a similar trade demand from Butler, who has opted to play through it. Butler, who has told Minnesota that he will not re-sign with the team in the offseason, added seven rebounds and three assists in an active 31 minutes.

Continued on Page 19



Clutch hitting, miraculous catch give Red Sox Game 4 win

Fans interfere with Boston Red Sox right fielder Mookie Betts trying to catch a ball hit by Houston Astros' Jose Altuve during the first inning in Game 4 of a baseball American League Championship Series on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in Houston. Altuve was called out.

Associated Press
Page 20

Serena's coach says in-match coaching would boost tennis

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams' coach says in-match coaching should be allowed in tennis to help the sport's popularity.

Patrick Mouratoglou, who admitted he used banned hand signals to try to help Williams during her loss in the U.S. Open final, wrote Thursday in a posting on Twitter that making coaching part of the spectacle would let "viewers enjoy it as a show" and "ensure that it remains pivotal in the sport." Mouratoglou also pointed to what he called a "hypocrisy" — players currently are getting coached at tournaments that ban coaching.

And he pointed out that all sorts of individual sports — boxing, golf, cycling — permit athletes to consult someone during competition.

"I have never understood why tennis is just about the only sport in which coaching during matches is not allowed," Mouratoglou wrote.

Quite a bit of debate about the topic of on-court coaching was sparked when chair umpire Carlos Ramos gave Williams a code violation after Mouratoglou gestured in her di-



In this Aug. 31, 2018, file photo, Serena Williams walks on a practice court with her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, in New York.

Associated Press

rection early in the second set of Naomi Osaka's 6-2, 6-4 victory over the American for the title at Flushing Meadows last month.

A few games later, Williams received another warning, this time for smashing her racket, and that second violation automatically cost her a point. Eventually, Williams called Ramos "a thief," drawing a third violation, this one for "verbal abuse," which cost her a game. Williams was fined a total of \$17,000 the

next day, including \$4,000 for coaching, which is not allowed in Grand Slam matches.

The WTA does allow coaching during women's matches at other tournaments. The tour's CEO, Steve Simon, said in the aftermath of the U.S. Open final that it "should be allowed across the sport."

The sport's various governing bodies and Grand Slam tournaments have been looking at the issue, with some sounding more

willing than others to consider permitting coaching. Wimbledon, for example, has made clear that it is "fundamentally opposed to any form of coaching during a match."

Banning coaching, Mouratoglou wrote Thursday, "almost makes it look as if it had to be hidden, or as if it was shameful."

He called the issue "symptomatic of the confrontation between two ways of thinking: The conservative, traditionalist way and the

modern, progressive way." Besides, Mouratoglou said, "It is a very basic truth that the vast majority of tennis coaches are actually coaching on court, despite the rules. Look at how many times players look towards their boxes during a match. Some do it after every single point." That is true.

Those who argue against in-match coaching — and believe rules against it should be enforced more rigidly — say that lessens the individual, go-it-alone nature of tennis.

Mouratoglou thinks part of the appeal of allowing coaching is that it would help get viewers "emotionally involved."

"You want spectators and TV viewers to have opinions about the players — and the coaches — and to know who they like and don't like. Watching the interactions between players and coaches is a very good way of achieving this," he wrote.

Mouratoglou added: "Moreover, emotions run high when coaches talk to their players during matches. Sometimes the players don't like to hear what their coaches are saying, but this all adds to the drama, which creates engagement on social media." □

Top-ranked Simona Halep withdraws from WTA Finals

SINGAPORE (AP) — The Women's Tennis Association said Thursday that No. 1-ranked Simona Halep has withdrawn from the WTA Finals because of a lower back injury. Halep's withdrawal means Kiki Bertens has qualified for the final spot, joining Angelique Kerber, Naomi Osaka, Petra Kvitova, Caroline Wozniacki, Sloane Stephens, Karolina Pliskova and Elina Svitolina in Singapore for the \$7 million tournament from Oct. 21-28.

Halep says: "Unfortunately, after much discussion with my team and doctors, I have made the decision



In this Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018 file photo, Simona Halep, of Romania, returns to Kiki Bertens, of the Netherlands, during the finals at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

to withdraw ... I wanted to finish 2018 on a high after

such an incredible year, but sadly my back injury hasn't healed the way we hoped it would and I need to put my long-term health first." Halep clinched the year-end top ranking on Monday. She had her best year on tour in 2018, reaching the Australian Open final and then winning her first Grand Slam title in the French Open a few months later.

But she announced at the start of this month that she had an MRI exam after retiring from her first-round match at the China Open, and that a herniated disc problem was found. □

Isner toughs out 3-set win in 1st match at Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM (AP) — John Isner was taken all the way by fellow American Bradley Klahn before winning his first match of the week at the Stockholm Open on Thursday. The top-seeded Isner, who can still qualify for the end-of-season ATP Finals in London, toughed out a 7-6 (2), 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5) victory in the second round after receiving a bye in the first round. Isner led 5-0 and 6-2 in the final-set tiebreaker but Klahn, ranked No. 102, pulled the score back to 6-5. Isner then produced a big first serve on his fourth match point, which Klahn couldn't return. □

Spurs - T-wolves

Continued from Page 17

DeRozan banked in the eventual winning shot in the final minute against Butler, driving hard to the basket against the 6-foot-8 forward and then pulling up from 12 feet to give San Antonio a 110-108 lead with 32.4 seconds remaining. DeRozan sealed the victory with a pair of free throws with 7.8 seconds remaining after Minnesota's Derrick Rose missed a runner in lane. Jeff Teague scored 27 points, and Andrewiggins added 20 points for the Timberwolves.

Rudy Gay had 18 points, and Bryn Forbes had 11 points in his first start at point guard for the Spurs.

KNICKS 126, HAWKS 107

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 31 points, sparking the Knicks during their franchise-record, 49-point second quarter, and New York beat Atlanta in its first game under coach David Fizdale.

Hardaway had 16 points in the period, when the Knicks matched the Hawks' point total for the entire first half. New York led 72-49 at the break.

Trae Young finished with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists, shooting 5 for 14 in his NBA debut. Taurean Prince scored 21 points for the Hawks, who were overwhelmed in their first game under Lloyd Pierce. Four other Knicks scored at least 15, while rookie Kevin Knox finished with 10 and was just 4 for 16.

Hardaway and the Knicks started slowly, as he had missed his first four shots and the Knicks started 0 for 9 when they took a timeout trailing 10-2. During that break, George Holmes of Northport, New York, nailed a halfcourt shot to win \$10,000, and suddenly the New Yorkers couldn't miss.

PELICANS 131, ROCKETS 112

HOUSTON (AP) — Anthony Davis had 32 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists, and Nikola Mirotic scored 30 points to lead New Orleans past Houston.

Davis added three blocks and three steals, Mirotic was 6 of 8 from 3-point

range, and Julius Randle had 25 points off the bench. Eric Gordon led the Rockets with 21 points off the bench, and P.J. Tucker and Chris Paul each added 19 points. James Harden had 18 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

BUCKS 113, HORNETS 112

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points, 18 rebounds and eight assists, and Milwaukee spoiled Charlotte's celebration of 30 years of basketball.

Antetokounmpo made two free throws with 23.7 seconds remaining to put the Bucks ahead after the Hornets battled back from a 20-point deficit behind 41 points from Kemba Walker. Walker missed a driving layup with 3.4 seconds left and the loose ball got kicked outside where Nic Batum misfired on a 3-pointer from the left wing at the buzzer.

Khris Middleton had 19 points and Eric Bledsoe added 17 as the Bucks. Walker was 15 of 29 from the field, hitting seven 3-pointers.

PACERS 111, GRIZZLIES 83

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 to help Indiana rout Memphis in the largest-opening night victory margin in the franchise's NBA era.

Domantas Sabonis finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds as Indiana earned its seventh opening-night win eight years. The Pacers also have won eight of their last nine home openers. Marc Gasol scored 13 points for Memphis.

RAPTORS 116, CAVALIERS 104

TORONTO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 12 rebounds in his Toronto debut, Kyle Lowry scored 27 points and the Raptors beat Cleveland. Fred VanVleet scored 14 points, Pascal Siakam had 13 and Danny Green 11 to help the Raptors win their sixth straight season opener and give Nick Nurse a victory in his first game as head coach.

Kevin Love scored 21

points, and Cedi Osman had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

PISTONS 103, NETS 100

DETROIT (AP) — Andre Drummond had 24 points and 20 rebounds, and Detroit won its opener under new coach Dwane Casey. Blake Griffin added 26 points for the Pistons, who were without two potential starters but still managed to hold off Brooklyn. Caris LeVert equaled a career high with 27 points for the Nets, and he drove to the basket in the final seconds with Brooklyn down one. LeVert lost the ball, and it went out of bounds to Detroit. Reggie Jackson made two free throws for the Pistons with 6.2 seconds remaining, and Joe Harris missed from near the top of the key at the other end.

MAGIC 104, HEAT 101

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Rookie Mohamed Bamba dunked twice and blocked a shot during Orlando's 9-0 run in the fourth quarter and the Magic held off Miami. Aaron Gordon had 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic. They went without a field goal over the final 4 1/2 minutes. Goran



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) loses the ball under pressure from New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in Houston.

Associated Press

Dragic led Miami with 26 points, and Josh Richardson had 21.

JAZZ 123, KINGS 117

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Utah overcame an uneven performance on both ends

of the floor to beat Sacramento in the season opener for both teams.

Rudy Gobert had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Joe Ingles scored 22 and Derrick Favors added 18 points and nine boards as the Jazz won their sixth straight against the Kings. □

OCTOBER 2018

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Benintendi, Red Sox hold off Astros 8-6 for 3-1 ALCS lead



Boston Red Sox' Andrew Benintendi makes a diving catch with the bases loaded for the final out in the ninth inning against the Houston Astros in Game 4 of the American League Championship Series, in Houston, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018. The Red Sox defeated the Astros 8-6 to take a 3-1 lead in the series.

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Andrew Benintendi charged in hard and left his feet. Make the catch, Boston wins. If not ... no telling. On this night, though, even a ball the Red Sox didn't grab went their way. Benintendi made a diving play in left field with the bases loaded for the final out, and Boston held off the Houston Astros 8-6 Wednesday to take a 3-1 lead in the AL Championship Series. "I thought I could catch it and timed it up well," Benintendi said. "At that point, it was either do or die." Boosted by a questionable fan interference call and another home run from Jackie Bradley Jr. in a gripping, back-and-forth game, the Red Sox moved within one victory of their first World Series trip since winning the 2013 title. Craig Kimbrel earned a shaky six-out save, helped by a rocket throw from right fielder Mookie Betts and Benintendi's daring grab of Alex Bregman's sinking

liner. Had the ball scooted past Benintendi, it easily could have scored three runs and won the game for Houston. "Beni took a shot. Had a great jump. And he got it," Boston manager Alex Cora said. With that, the Red Sox improved to 4-0 on the road in these playoffs and inched closer to eliminating the defending World Series champions. "This game was incredibly good on both sides — great at-bats, great plays," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "The difference in that game literally was a couple inches." Game 5 is Thursday night in Houston, where ace Justin Verlander will pitch for the Astros with their season on the line. David Price, who was warming up in the bullpen late in Game 4, will start for Boston on three days' rest after Chris Sale was ruled out Wednesday while recovering from a stomach illness. Bradley hit a go-ahead homer in the sixth inning, his latest huge swing for a Red Sox team that got knocked

out of last year's playoffs by Houston in the Division Series. Boston has won three straight after a Game 1 loss, and this one came with some controversy. Astros star Jose Altuve was denied a potential two-run homer in the first inning and called out after fans reaching for the ball interfered with Betts' attempt at a leaping catch. "Jose pays the biggest price, because the trajectory of the ball looked like it was going to leave the ballpark," Hinch said. "Changed that whole inning." Boston trailed by one with two outs in the sixth when Christian Vazquez doubled to deep right-center. Center fielder George Springer nearly made a jumping grab, but the ball glanced off his glove. Bradley, who hit a grand slam in Game 3 and a three-run double in Game 2, put the Red Sox on top 6-5 with his soaring shot to right field on the next pitch from rookie Josh James. "I'm very proud of him, what he's done in the sec-

ond part of the season and what he's done tonight and in this series. It's amazing," Cora said about Bradley. Boston got some insurance in the seventh when Lance McCullers walked in a run after taking over for Ryan Pressly with the bases loaded and two outs. J.D. Martinez added an RBI single in the eighth. Houston cut the margin to two on an RBI groundout by Altuve in the eighth. Right fielder Josh Reddick made a diving catch of Betts' liner with the bases loaded to end the top of the ninth. Red Sox starter Rick Porcello allowed seven hits and four runs over four innings in a wild game that took 4 hours, 33 minutes. Joe Kelly was the winner after giving up a run in the fifth. Rafael Devers and Xander Bogaerts had two RBIs apiece for the Red Sox, who have outscored their opponents 36-12 on the road this postseason. Houston's Carlos Correa, who has struggled with back problems for months, had three hits and two RBIs for his first multihit game this postseason. Springer and

Tony Kemp each hit a solo homer for the Astros, who left 13 runners on base. A rusty Charlie Morton gave up three hits, three runs and two walks in just 2 1/3 innings. He also threw two wild pitches in his first outing for the Astros since the regular-season finale on Sept. 30. James took over and yielded three runs while striking out five in 3 2/3 innings during his second postseason appearance. Devers' two-run single gave the Red Sox two runs in the first inning for the third straight game. The disputed call came in the bottom of the inning when umpires ruled a fan interfered with Betts as he tried to snag Altuve's drive above the right-field wall. "I'm 100 percent positive I was going to be able to catch that one," Betts said. "I jumped and went over, reached my hand up, I felt like somebody was kind of pushing my glove out of the way or something." Crew chief Joe West, working the right-field line, signaled fan interference after the ball ricocheted back onto the field. "The spectator reached out of the stands and hit him over the playing field and closed his glove," West said. "That's why I called spectator interference." The call stood after a replay review that lasted 3 minutes, 13 seconds. "The replay official said I was right," West explained. "That's all. He said I have nothing that can change it." Altuve was ruled out and Springer was sent back to first base. Cora, for one, wasn't surprised. "Joe calls it right away and I saw the replay," he said. "And I said, no way they're going to overturn this. I was pretty sure." Altuve was disappointed with the call but not mad at the fan. "I don't have anything against him," he said. "He's another Astros fan rooting for us. Appreciate he was trying to help me." □

Associated Press



Montreal Canadiens' Jonathan Drouin scores on a penalty shot against Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jimmy Howard during first period NHL hockey action in Montreal, Monday, Oct. 15, 2018. Associated Press

Red Wings claim winger de la Rose off waivers from Montreal

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings have claimed winger Jacob de la Rose off waivers from Montreal. Detroit made the move Wednesday. The 23-year-old de la Rose has an opportunity to get plenty of ice time with the Red Wings if he's cleared to play after having a cardiac episode earlier this month. The 6-foot-3, 216-pound Swede had four goals

and a career-high 12 points in 55 games for the Canadiens last season. He has eight goals and 19 career points in 119 NHL games with Montreal. The Canadiens drafted him in the second round, No. 34 overall, in 2013. Detroit has lost its first six games for the first time in franchise history. The Red Wings play at Tampa Bay on Thursday night. □

Anaheim Ducks sign holdout Nick Ritchie to 3-year deal

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Anaheim Ducks have signed holdout power forward Nick Ritchie to a three-year contract. The Ducks announced the deal Wednesday night before the opening faceoff of their home game against the New York Islanders. Ritchie missed the entire preseason and six regular-season games while holding out for a better deal as a restricted free agent. His absence constrained the Ducks, who still started 4-1-1 despite missing several key forwards due to injury. Ritchie had 10

goals and 17 assists in 76 games last season in his second full NHL campaign. The former first-round pick has 26 goals, 33 assists and 171 penalty minutes in 186 career games. Toronto's William Nylander is the final unsigned restricted free agent in the NHL. □

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Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, battles for the puck against New York Rangers center Kevin Hayes (13) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in Washington. Associated Press

Alex Ovechkin scores twice, Capitals beat Rangers 4-3 in OT

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored two power-play goals and Matt Niskanen had the winner in the Washington Capitals' 4-3 overtime victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night. Ovechkin has six goals in six games to start the season after scoring 49 last season. He has 24 career goals against Henrik Lundqvist, his most against any goaltender in the NHL. Niskanen beat Lundqvist 2:18 into overtime, putting the puck into an empty net as Lundqvist lunged to try to stop the shot. John Carlson had Washington's other goal. Capitals goalie Braden Holtby stopped 29 of the 32 shots he faced in arguably his best game of this season. One of his biggest saves came with time running out in the second period when he denied Kevin Hayes on a short-handed breakaway, and Ovechkin tied up Neal Pionk's stick to

prevent a rebound goal. Mika Zibanejad, Jimmy Vesey and Chris Kreider scored for New York.

CANADIENS 3, BLUES 2

MONTREAL (AP) — Brendan Gallagher scored with 11 seconds left to give Montreal its third straight victory. Gallagher tipped a loose puck past goalie Jake Allen after jumping on a bad giveaway by defenseman Colton Parayko in front of the net.

Max Domi and Mike Reilly each scored their first goal of the season to help Montreal improve to 4-1-1. Carey Price made 23 saves after missing two games because of the flu.

Vince Dunn and Brayden Schenn scored for St. Louis, and Allen made 20 saves. The Blues dropped to 1-3-2.

FLAMES 5, BRUINS 2

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Michael Frolik scored two goals to lead Calgary past Boston.

Johnny Gaudreau collected his 100th NHL goal and rookie defenseman Juuso

Valimaki scored his first for the Flames. Matthew Tkachuk added an empty-net goal.

Mikael Backlund and Michael Stone each had two assists as Calgary won its second straight home game. Goaltender Mike Smith stopped 24 of 26 shots in the win.

Patrice Bergeron had a goal and an assist for the Bruins. Brad Marchand also scored. Tuukka Rask turned away 24 shots in the loss.

DUCKS 4, ISLANDERS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Ryan Kesler scored twice to help Anaheim continue its hot start.

Adam Henrique added a third goal for the Ducks and Hampus Lindholm an empty-netter in the final seconds. Anaheim is 5-1-1 this season.

The Islanders fell to 2-3-0. Anaheim goalie John Gibson lost his shutout with 34.8 seconds left when Ross Johnson's shot deflected off Casey Cizikas and then Anaheim's Luke Schenn and into the net.

Gibson stopped 34 of New York's 35 shots. Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss turned away 21 of Anaheim's 24 shots. □

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Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen catches a 13-yard touchdown pass in front of Arizona Cardinals linebacker Josh Bynes, right, during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

NFL happy with more scoring, close games

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Plenty of scoring and close games are good for business in the NFL.

Teams are scoring at a record pace. The number of points (4,489), touchdowns (504) and touchdown passes (328) are the most in league history through six weeks.

And, games are coming down to the end.

Sixty-nine percent of all games (64 of 93) have been within one score in the fourth quarter. A total of 54 games have been decided by one score — eight points or less. That's tied for the most in league history at this point. There have been 28 games decided by three points or fewer, second-most at this point. At least one game has reached overtime the first six weeks for the first time since extra time was instituted in 1974.

"I don't think there has been a better time to be an NFL fan," Commissioner Roger Goodell said Wednesday. "The quality of the games and the enjoyment that comes with that, I hear it from the fans all the time — that is No. 1 for them. From

our standpoint, we look at this as a great moment for us, the tremendous growth and the tremendous popularity of our game."

One of the key factors contributing to the scoring output is the emphasis on calling defensive holding penalties. The total is up to 36 from 11 through six weeks last season.

The increase in roughing-the-passer penalties and eliminating use of the helmet to initiate hits are also important factors.

League officials also point to an influx of talented young quarterbacks. However, scoring could taper off once defenses make adjustments and weather could affect games later in the season.

Here's a look inside more numbers going into Week 7:

MORE THIELEN: Vikings receiver Adam Thielen has at least 100 yards receiving in each of Minnesota's first six games this season. Only Charley Hennigan had more with seven in 1961 for Houston. Thielen's 58 catches lead the NFL and he's on pace for 155 receptions.

BREEZING UP: Drew Brees broke Peyton Manning's

career record for yards passing last week and now is one TD pass away from joining Manning (539), Brett Favre (508) and Tom Brady (501) in the 500 TD club. The Saints visit the Ravens on Sunday.

CHASING LT: Rams running back Todd Gurley has 11 TDs rushing and receiving. He's on pace for 29. Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson set the record with 31 in 2006 for the Chargers.

THE KICKING GOAT: Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri is 10 points away from breaking Morten Anderson's scoring record.

Anderson had 2,544 points on 565 field goals and 849 extra points. Vinatieri has 2,535 points and already broke Anderson's record for most field goals. He's at 570 and counting.

PAT'S STATS: Patrick Mahomes has 18 TD passes in his first seven career games. Only Kurt Warner (21) and Deshaun Watson (20) had more through eight.

BIG PLAY TY: Mahomes' teammate on the Chiefs, wide receiver Tyreek Hill, already has 14 career TDs of 50 yards or more. Only Gale Sayers (16) and Randy Moss (15) had more before age 25. □



In this photo provided by the LPGA, golfer Laura Davies poses for a photo with her trophy, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in French Lick, Ind.

Associated Press

Laura Davies wins Senior LPGA Championship

FRENCH LICK, Ind. (AP) —

Laura Davies won the Senior LPGA Championship on Wednesday at chilly and windy French Lick Resort to sweep the two senior major events of the year. Davies birdied the final hole for a 2-under 70 and a four-stroke victory over Helen Alfredsson and Silvia Cavalleri. Still active on the LPGA Tour, the 55-year-old Englishwoman won the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Open by 10 strokes in July at Chicago Golf Club. "This is fantastic," Davies said. "Winning the U.S. (Senior) Women's Open was a real thrill, and this is a golf course that I didn't think I could win on. So for me, this is a real victory. I've always played OK around here, but I've never strung three rounds together, I've

always had one big number, so this is nice."

"I wish there were more of them to play," Davies said about the two senior majors. "This was a real treat because I've never put three good rounds together on this course. With the wind today and the challenging layout, I think 2-under par was a really good score."

"When you've got a three-shot lead those putts tend to go in," Davies said.

"If I had to hole that to win it might not have gone in. So, that was a little bonus." Alfredsson also shot 70, and Cavalleri had a 71. Michele Redman was fourth at 1 under after a 73. Brandie Burton, two strokes behind Davies after a second-round 66, shot 77 to finish fifth at 1 over. □

Pop Warner implements concussion-awareness program for kids

By **The Associated Press**

Pop Warner, the country's largest youth football program, is implementing a concussion-awareness initiative aimed at educating young athletes about how to recognize symptoms of a head injury. The program is called CrashCourse and was developed with Stanford University education, engineering and medical researchers. It uses an in-

teractive online video of a high school football game and a symptoms simulator. Pop Warner has 325,000 participants in its youth football leagues, including cheerleading and dance, with about 225,000 players. Pop Warner officials plan to promote and encourage use of the program to its coaches and local leagues organizers through social media and email. □

U.S. wins CONCACAF qualifying final 2-0 over Canada

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Rose Lavelle is still trying to regain some of the confidence that was shaken when she was injured.

Lavelle has been back to full strength for a while since battling a nagging hamstring injury, but it's the mental part that she's been working hard to overcome. On Wednesday night she scored within the first two minutes and the U.S. women beat rival Canada 2-0 in the championship match of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament. "It's a little weird because it's been a while since I've been back, I've been back for a couple of months now. I really didn't think it would take that long," said Lavelle, who at 23 is one of the team's young stars. "I think when I'm playing my best I'm not thinking, and things are coming naturally. I'm not quite there yet. I think I'm getting there, and I know I'll get there, but I'm not there yet."

Alex Morgan also scored for the United States, which outscored the field 26-0 to improve to 16-0-2 so far in 2018. The team has gone undefeated in 26 straight matches (23-0-3) dating to last year. Both had already secured spots in next year's World Cup in France with victories in the semifinals.

CONCACAF sends the top three finishers in the tournament to the World Cup.

Jamaica earned a trip to France on penalties after a 2-2 draw with Panama in the third-place match at Toyoda Stadium earlier on Wednesday. Panama will still have a chance to qualify for France with a two-legged playoff against Argentina next month.

It will be Jamaica's first trip to the World Cup, and the island nation is the first team from the Caribbean to earn a spot.

The United States, the top-ranked team in the world, is the defending World Cup champion. The Americans beat Japan in the 2015 World Cup final in Canada. Lavelle's left-footed goal from distance came less than two minutes into the match. It was the sixth of her career, and third of the tournament.

Lavelle, who played at Wisconsin, was the first pick of the National Women's Soccer League draft in 2017. She currently plays for the Washington Spirit. She's made 18 total appearances for the national team.

The game between the two rivals was tense from the start, and Tobin Heath was handed a yellow card after exchanging words and pushes with Canadian defender Allysha Chapman. Morgan collided with Ca-



USA midfielder Rose Lavelle takes a shot on goal in the first half of the finals of the CONCACAF Women's soccer Championship on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in Frisco, Texas.

Associated Press

nadian goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe on a good U.S. chance in the 61st minute. Morgan recovered to take a shot that was diverted away by Shelina Zadorsky. Morgan was just wide on another effort in the 80th minute, but finally broke through with her goal in the 89th. She has 24 goals in her last 24 games.

Morgan was the top scorer of the tournament with seven total goals. The United States did not concede a goal in the five matches.

"Canada made it hard for us at times tonight," Morgan said. "I just think part of this, when you play your rivals in a tournament like this, it's sometimes very much about heart, and will. So I think to get the late goal was incredible rewarding for the mentality piece. It's something you can take away and lean on later." The match was played in steady rain and temperatures in the 50s. Attendance was announced a 6,986. Canada, ranked

fifth in the world, has seen its profile raised in recent years with back-to-back bronze medals at the Olympics. The two teams met in an epic semifinal match at the 2012 London Games, with the United States coming out on top 4-3 in overtime. The U.S. defeated Jamaica 6-0 on Sunday in the semifinals, with Morgan and Heath scoring two goals apiece. Christine Sinclair scored twice in Canada's 7-0 semifinal victory over Panama. □

Sounders beat Orlando City to clinch playoff spot

By The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Victor Rodriguez had a goal and an assist to help the Seattle Sounders beat Orlando City 2-1 on Wednesday night and clinch their 10th consecutive playoff berth.

Seattle (16-11-5) has won three games in a row and 12 of its last 14.

Rodriguez tapped the volley of an arcing pass from Kelvin Leerdam over the head of goalkeeper Adam Grinwis to open the scoring in the third minute.

Handwalla Bwana made it 2-0 in the 13th, taking a pass from Rodriguez on the left side, beating a defender and then ripping a right-footer inside the near post. Dom Dwyer, from point-blank range, tapped in a cross by Scott Sutter for Orlando City (7-21-4), the team's first goal in 500-plus minutes dating a 2-2 tie with Philadelphia on Sept. 1. Orlando City has lost three games in a row and is winless 13 in a row since a 2-1 win over Toronto on July 14.

DC UNITED 1, TORONTO FC 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wayne Rooney scored a long-range goal, Bill Hamid had four saves and D.C. United beat Toronto FC. D.C. United (13-11-8) has won four games in a row and is unbeaten in its last eight. The Washington club has a four-point lead over Montreal for the sixth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with two games remaining. Rooney bent a free kick just inside the post from



Sporting Kansas City goalkeeper Tim Melia watches the ball after sliding to keep it from going out of play during the second half of an MLS soccer game against the Vancouver Whitecaps, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

nearly 40 yards out in the 18th minute. Toronto FC (9-17-6), which was eliminated from play-

off contention with a loss to Vancouver on Oct. 6, has lost three of its last four games. □

Can Pinterest succeed as the 'un'-social network?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — If Instagram is the dream vacation you'll never go on and Facebook is Thanksgiving with too many relatives arguing over politics, Pinterest is sitting on the couch by yourself, watching a home-improvement show and absent-mindedly flipping through an old issue of Gourmet magazine. Pinterest has long shunned being labeled a social network. Because of that, it doesn't push users to add friends or build connections the way rivals have done to grow quickly. But while this has meant that Pinterest is smaller than, say, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, the service has also avoided much of its peers' troubles around misinformation, hate and abuse. "Social media is about sharing what you are doing with other people," Evan Sharp, Pinterest's co-founder and chief product officer said in an interview. "Pinterest isn't about sharing. It's mostly about yourself, your dreams, your ideas for what you want for your future." That means not bugging you to add friends and see

whom you know. Comments are there, but not essential. If you want, you can do Pinterest all alone. Still, if Pinterest is to start selling shares to the public, as it's widely expected to in the coming year, potential investors will be looking at how much money it makes and how much it will grow. In another step toward revenue growth, the company announced Tuesday that it is making more of its "pins" — the photos and illustrations users post and save for inspiration — "shoppable." The 8-year-old company has a deliberate, slower growth mentality — as opposed to, say, Facebook's "move fast and break things." But it's hard to tell how much of this slower growth is truly deliberate rather than a sign that Pinterest is merely a niche service. "Sometimes slow and steady can win the race," said Andrew Lipsman, an analyst at research firm eMarketer. Given mistakes hyper-growth social media companies have made over the years, he added, "maybe there is actually an advantage in this, once you get yourself out of that Silicon Valley mindset." Pinterest's main goal is dis-



In this Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, photo Evan Sharp, Pinterest co-founder and chief product officer, poses for a photo in his office beside a wall of pinned photos he has taken at Pinterest headquarters in San Francisco.

covery and inspiration, catching people at big life moments such as weddings, their first kid or first apartment — and everything in between — to help them find ideas of what an outfit, a meal or a dream home might look like. It's a visual search app, too, letting users find related objects by taking photos of stuff in real life. Pinterest was founded in

2010 by Sharp and Ben Silberman. It was different from the start. The San Francisco-based service attracted women from the Midwest and central United States, rather than young people, Silicon Valley insiders and nerds in the know. Even back then, it was reminiscent of Oprah's O Dream Boards, a place where you "envision your best life" through a digital

Associated Press
billboard of sorts. The business strategy is to make the boards something more than pretty things to look at. The boards would feature something to buy, something to make, something a business would want to get in front of a potential customer in the form of an advertisement. With Tuesday's announcement, users who've been pinning collections of wedding dresses, welcome mats or wool slippers will now be able to see prices and links to retailers' websites to buy them. While Pinterest already had such "buyable pins" where people could buy stuff, the company says these new "product pins" cover many more products and will be easier to find. In addition, if the exact item is not available, Pinterest is making it easier for people to find similar ones. While a brown leather couch is a brown leather couch when you type it out in text, it is more complex when it comes to images. When you're looking for that perfect leather couch, you simply know when you see the right one. Pinterest wants to be the company that will show it to you even when you can't put it in words to type it into a search engine. □

Twitter airs election meddling data

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter is releasing all known accounts and posts related to "information operations" dating back to 2016, when it was first learned that foreign operators were using social media to meddle in U.S. elections. Twitter has already disclosed the account numbers, but is now releasing the actual tweets, images, video and other information so that outside researchers can study them. The company said Wednesday that the data comprises more than 4,600 accounts and over 10 million tweets, most affiliated with the Russia-linked Internet Research Agency and potentially linked to Iran. Twitter



In this Oct. 26, 2016, file photo two men wait to cross the street under a sign at Twitter headquarters in San Francisco.

Associated Press
Counsel Robert Mueller for its actions during the U.S. presidential election. Facebook and other social media companies are attempting to halt election meddling and misinformation campaigns on their

platforms. But the organized campaigns continue to evolve. They are no longer focused solely on elections. Operators linked to Russia, Iran and likely other nations have posted images, videos and other content that is intended to intensify political discord by promoting extreme views from multiple political angles. "It is clear that information operations and coordinated inauthentic behavior will not cease," Twitter said in a blog post Wednesday. "These types of tactics have been around for far longer than Twitter has existed — they will adapt and change as the geopolitical terrain evolves worldwide and as new technologies emerge." □

Stocks skid as interest rates rise and earnings disappoint

By MARLEY JAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are falling Thursday as interest rates resume their upward climb and several industrial companies post disappointing third-quarter results. Interest rates started rising a day ago after the Federal Reserve released minutes showing that a minority of its leaders think interest rates will need to keep rising to a level that slightly restricts economic growth. That would affect stocks because it means smaller corporate profits and less spending by consumers. Aircraft maker Textron and tool maker Snap-On both slumped after their quarterly reports, and other big manufacturers also traded lower. Technology companies and drugmakers skidded, but high-dividend companies including utilities and household goods makers climbed.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index shed 13 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,795 as of 11:15 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 145 points, or 0.6 percent, to 25,563. The Nasdaq composite sank 69 points, or 0.9 percent, to 7,573. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks declined 10 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,578.

WHAT DOES THE FED SAY: According to minutes from the latest Federal Reserve meeting, several Fed policymakers think its benchmark interest rate will eventually have to rise to a level that is "moderately restrictive" to economic growth in order to make sure inflation doesn't get out of control. The Fed has been gradually raising interest rates since the end of 2015 after keeping them near zero for seven years in the wake of the global financial crisis. Low rates contributed to the U.S. economic recovery and to big gains for stocks over the last decade, as low rates made bonds relatively unappealing.

Bond prices dropped. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.19 per-



In this Oct. 11, 2018, file photo trader Peter Mazza, left, works with trader Daniel Trimble on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Associated Press

cent from 3.15 percent. The yield on the 10-year note spiked to seven-year highs last week.

INDUSTRIAL WOES: Aircraft maker Textron slid 7.8 percent to \$59.73 after its profit and sales fell far short of analyst forecasts. The company said its aerospace and defense business and its industrial business both weakened. Tool and diagnostic equipment company Snap-On lost 8.5 percent to \$153.40 after it posted lower revenue than analysts expected, and United Rentals fell 8.2 percent to \$127.70 after its report.

Industrial and basic materials companies have taken bigger losses than any other part of the market over the last month, and one reason is that investors feel they are especially vulnerable in the ongoing trade dispute between the U.S. and China. Higher tariffs on metals can hurt the sales of companies like Alcoa and also drive up costs for companies that use those metals to make other kinds of machinery.

GROWTH WOES: Stocks have skidded over the last two weeks, and there are signs investors are worried about future economic growth. The S&P 500 has fallen 4 percent in volatile trading since Oct. 3, and the companies that have

done the worst over that time include technology, industrial and energy companies. Those companies tend to do better when the economy is growing more quickly and consumers and businesses have more money to spend.

Video game maker Activision Blizzard lost 6.7 percent to \$73.06 Thursday and Apple fell 1.1 percent to \$218.71.

The stocks that have held up the best include utility and household products companies. They don't depend as much on economic growth, as consumers are likely to use about the same amount of electricity and buy the same amount of toilet paper or cereal regardless of the state of the economy.

Duke Energy added 1.1 percent to \$81.63 and Walmart added 0.5 percent to \$97. Cigarette maker Philip Morris jumped 4.4 percent to \$88.25 after

a strong third-quarter report.

The recent gains for those stocks is notable because the market's slump began when interest rates started rising quickly. Utility companies and other defensive stocks often struggle when interest rates are rising. The companies are known for paying big dividends, similar to bonds, so when rates rise, investors often sell those stocks and buy bonds instead.

ALUMINUM SHINING: Aluminum producer Alcoa rose 8.6 percent to \$39.85 after it topped Wall Street projections in the third quarter. The company also said it will buy back \$200 million in stock. Alcoa's stock has slumped over the last six months as the U.S. announced tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, which is reducing the company's profits because it has several facilities in

Canada.

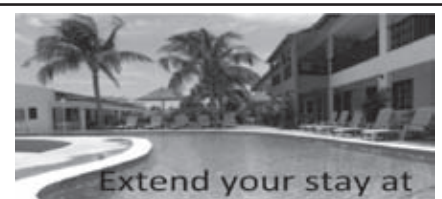
CHINA CURRENCY FALLS: China's politically sensitive yuan fell to a 22-month low against the dollar after the U.S. Treasury declined to label Beijing a currency manipulator.

ENERGY: The price of U.S. crude oil lost 0.4 percent to \$69.49 per barrel in New York, its lowest in a month. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 0.7 percent to \$79.45 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dipped to 112.25 yen from 112.49 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1489 from \$1.1507.

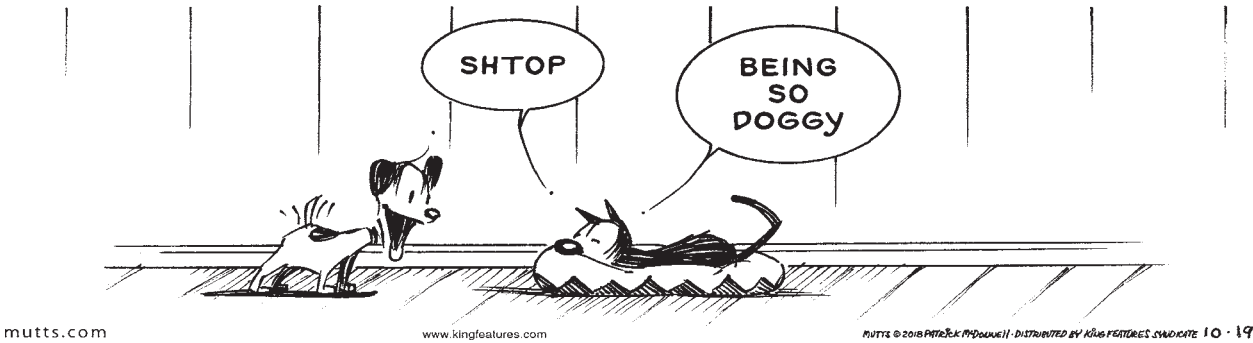
OVERSEAS: Germany's DAX dipped 0.2 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain rose 0.2 percent. The CAC 40 in France added 0.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index sank 0.8 percent and the Kospi in South Korea lost 0.9 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was little changed. □

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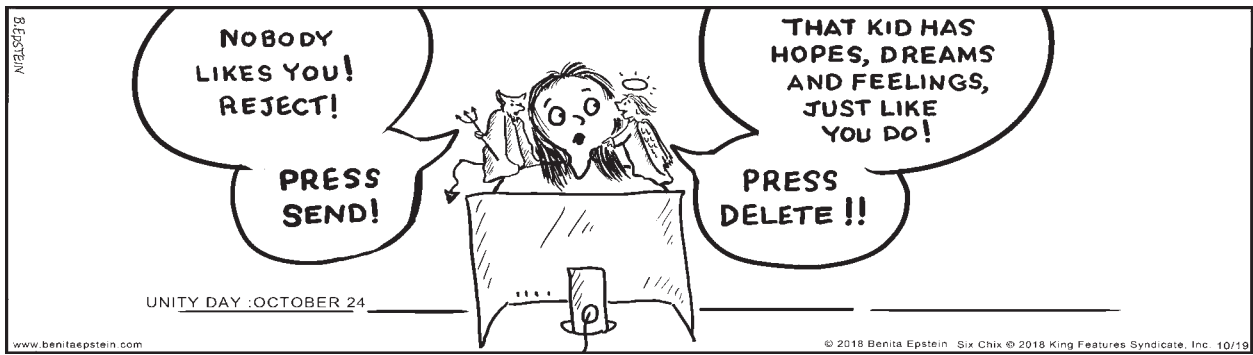


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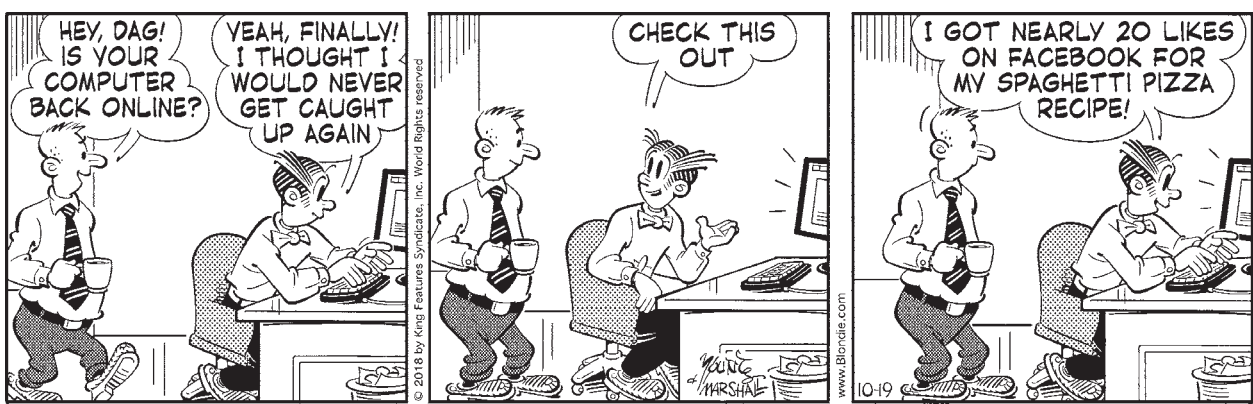
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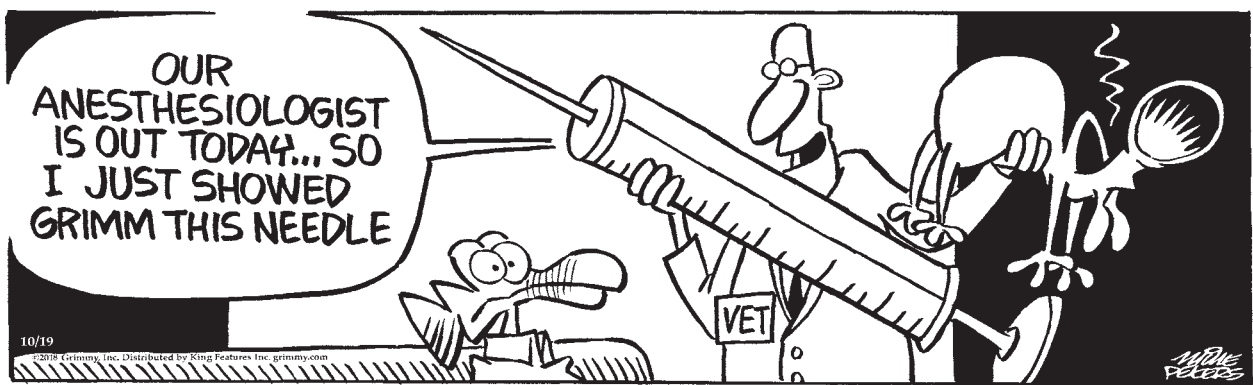
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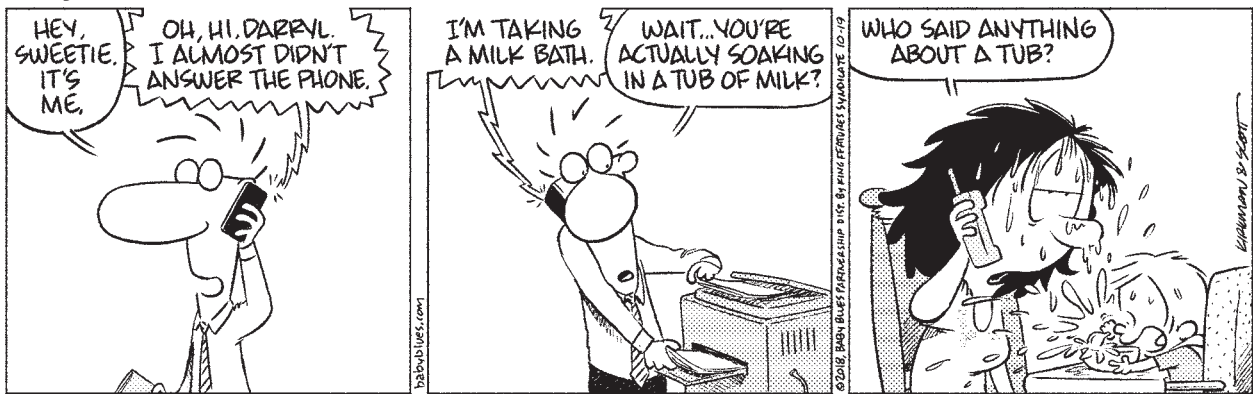
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Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6		5				1		7
8			7		3			9
	2		4		7		5	
	7		3		1		6	
1			6		2			3
3		9				8		1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/19

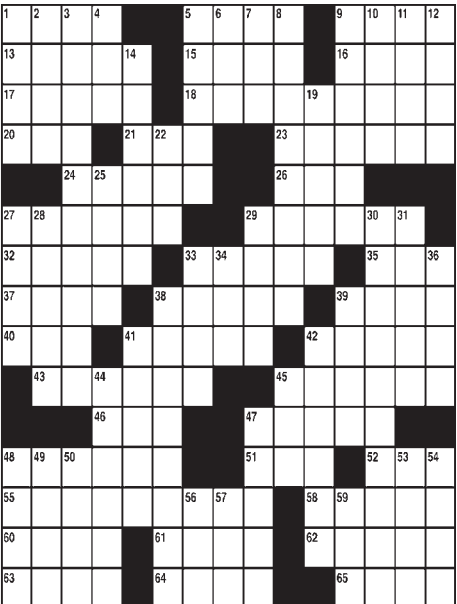
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	2	1	8	7	9	4	6	3
6	7	3	2	4	1	8	5	9
4	8	9	3	5	6	1	7	2
1	4	6	5	8	3	2	9	7
7	5	8	9	2	4	3	1	6
3	9	2	1	6	7	5	4	8
8	6	5	7	1	2	9	3	4
9	1	7	4	3	8	6	2	5
2	3	4	6	9	5	7	8	1

ACROSS

- 1 Nutty
- 5 Make a mess at table
- 9 Skinny
- 13 Lubricated
- 15 Laugh loudly
- 16 Bagel center
- 17 Exchange
- 18 Unreadable
- 20 Curvy road
- 21 Is able to
- 23 Put cuffs on
- 24 Cures
- 26 Made a lap
- 27 Cool dishes
- 29 Univ. of Arizona's location
- 32 Country club set
- 33 Task
- 35 Overalls part
- 37 Big ___; 18-wheelers
- 38 See eye ___; agree
- 39 Joy
- 40 Word of disgust
- 41 Zooms skyward
- 42 Fruit drink
- 43 Leisurely walk
- 45 Result of fasting
- 46 Female animal
- 47 Good wood for rafts
- 48 Stimulating drink
- 51 Actress MacGraw
- 52 Sunbather's reward
- 55 Largest terriers
- 58 Clay brick material
- 60 Inflammation suffix
- 61 ___ as a pin
- 62 Boils & blisters
- 63 Youths
- 64 Grow weary
- 65 Fluid-filled sac



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/19/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

BOB	BIKES	AWLS
AVID	EVICT	SHOP
DELI	CANOE	LIAR
RECTANGLE	EMMY	
KIMS	RUE	
SCHEME	SLIPPERY	
PAINS	CHINA	LIE
ACTS	CLANG	SODA
RHO	CHALK	CAPIES
KEROSENE	SLIEST	
WIN	VIAL	
STUN	IMPENDING	
HOPE	LEARN	NOON
ODOR	LARGE	GALE
TONS	ENTER	HDT

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10/19/18

DOWN

- 1 ___ on; fawn over
- 2 Melodies
- 3 Item in an emergency kit
- 4 Actor Danson

- 5 Lower leg parts
- 6 Online laugh
- 7 Nocturnal bird of prey
- 8 Enjoyment
- 9 Upper body garments
- 10 Frontal ___; part of the brain
- 11 Misfortunes
- 12 Track-and-field event
- 14 Period of time
- 19 Kelly or Slick
- 22 Capp & Capone
- 25 Sups
- 27 Many a Bosnian
- 28 Word on a wanted poster
- 29 Playthings
- 30 Required
- 31 Female relative
- 33 Scuttle chunks
- 34 That girl
- 36 Lager
- 38 Open-minded
- 39 Pistols
- 41 Planted

- 42 Child and Roberts
- 44 Courtroom break
- 45 Actor Holbrook
- 47 Sew loosely
- 48 Arrestee's hope
- 49 Moreno or Hayworth
- 50 Very dry
- 53 Lincoln & others
- 54 Robin's home
- 56 Garland
- 57 In one ___ and out the other
- 59 Gunfighter Holiday

Obesity surgery may lower heart attack danger in diabetics

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Obesity surgery may dramatically lower the danger of heart attacks and strokes in patients with diabetes, new research suggests, reinforcing evidence that benefits extend beyond weight loss.

The study tracked about 20,000 severely obese patients with Type 2 diabetes. Those who had weight loss surgery had a 40 percent lower chance of developing a heart attack or stroke in the five years following surgery compared to those who got usual care with diabetes medicines or insulin.

For every 1,000 patients in the study who had surgery there were roughly 20 heart attacks or strokes compared to 40 such events per 1,000 who got regular care.

More than 30 million Americans have diabetes, mostly Type 2 where the body loses the ability to produce or use insulin to turn food into energy.

Other research has shown obesity surgery can reverse and even prevent diabetes. Taken together, it means doctors should discuss weight loss surgery more often, said study co-author Dr. David Arterburn of Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle. Doctors usually mention insulin and pills, "but it's not always brought up that weight loss surgery is another available treatment option," Arterburn said.

Researchers analyzed records from four U.S. health care systems: HealthPartners in Minnesota and Kaiser Permanente in Washington state, Northern California and Southern California. Results were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study can't prove cause and effect because patients weren't randomly assigned to get surgery.

The researchers tried to match patients for gender, age, blood sugar levels and other factors. But other things they didn't account for could have contributed to the surgery patients' better results. Everyone in the study had a BMI, or body mass index, of at least 35. For instance, someone who is 5-foot-8-inches and weighs 230 pounds has a BMI of 35. Obesity surgery can cost \$20,000 to \$25,000. Insurers are increasingly covering it, but some impose strict limits. The new findings suggest insurance coverage should be expanded for the right patients, Dr. Sayeed Ikramuddin of the University of Minnesota wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Surgery is thought to help by affecting hormones, gut bacteria and other substances that affect how the body handles insulin and blood sugar. Weight loss without surgery also helps, but is difficult for many people to achieve. Most weight loss surgery today is done through small incisions. The dangers are similar to other surgeries, including a small chance of life-threatening complications, and some people need to have their surgeries repeated. □

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West Coast quake warning system now operational, with limits

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

Automated alerts from the fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system are ready to be used broadly by businesses, utilities, schools and other entities but not for mass public notification, officials said Wednesday.

"We're making a large change from a production prototype in pilot mode to an open-for-business operational mode," Doug Given, earthquake early warning coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey, told a press conference at the California Institute of Technology.

The system being built for California, Oregon and Washington detects that an earthquake is occurring, quickly analyzes the data and sends out alerts that may give warnings of several seconds to a minute before strong shaking arrives at locations away from the epicenter.

That can be enough time to automatically slow trains, stop industrial processes, start backup generators, pause a surgery or send students scrambling for protection under desks and table.

Pilot programs involving select users have been underway for several years.

"The system is not yet finished, it's not complete, there is a lot of work to be done, however there is a lot of capability in the system as it exists today to the point it can definitely be used," Given said.

The sensor network is about 50 percent complete and funding has been secured to complete it in California in the next two years and get two-thirds of the way built out in the Pacific Northwest, he said.



This March 11, 2009 file photo shows an antenna to send data stands on a rise above an earthquake monitoring well, right, powered by a solar electric panel, lower left, as scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey set up an earthquake monitoring station on the San Andreas Fault in a desert canyon near Thermal, Calif.

Associated Press

Another key development occurred Sept. 28 when a new generation of ShakeAlert software was deployed.

Given said among its important improvements is reduction of false and missed alerts. False alerts typically have occurred when a large quake elsewhere in the world is detected by a sensor and is mistaken for a local temblor.

"The system performs now much better than it did in the past to the point where it is much more reliable," he said.

Officials now want to open ShakeAlert to a wide array of applications and are encouraging potential users to contact the USGS.

That doesn't yet include mass public notifications for several reasons, including the fact that current cellphone technology is too slow for timely delivery of notifications.

"Most folks expect to get

the alerts on their phone and that is of course is the

preferred way that we'd like to get it into everybody's hands," Given said. "Unfortunately the technology that is built into your phone to send you notifications was not designed with earthquake early warning in mind."

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who has championed funding of the system, said it will also be important to make sure people know what the alerts mean, what to do when they get them, what not to do and to understand there may be false alarms.

"The education component is going to be very, very important, but this is a wonderful milestone," he said. "We can now see the end, I hope, in two or three years where the system is fully built out and funded and in operation." □

EPA puts off final say on science transparency rule

By **ELLEN KNICKMEYER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday it is putting off for at least a year any final announcement on a controversial proposal overhauling how the agency evaluates science.

The agency's so-called transparency in regulatory science rule was one of the most contentious proposed by former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who stepped down last summer amid ethics scandals. Trump replaced Pruitt with current acting administrator Andrew Wheeler, who like Pruitt describes himself

as a champion of rolling back what they see as unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

Supporters say the rule would help the public understand the science behind EPA regulations, by requiring scientists to disclose more details of the individual cases underlying public-health studies.

EPA public hearings on the proposal drew mainly throngs of critics—health officials, academics, researchers and others, who said the rule could force regulators to ignore the findings of major public-health studies, since much of the individual information on patients in those studies is confidential.

"The current political leadership still wants to move forward with Pruitt's agenda to sideline science, just at a slower pace," Yogin Kothari of the Union of Concerned Scientists nonprofit said Wednesday.

"It's clear the agency's political leadership still wants to ignore the best available

science when it comes to protecting public health and the environment," Kothari said.

Radiation experts with independent institutions, universities and environmental groups told The Associated Press earlier this month that a less-noticed part of the proposal could also move the agency from its longstanding no-tolerance position on harmful radiation and other health risks. The EPA said at the time that it did not expect the proposal to trigger any changes on regulating radiation.

Sen. Mike Rounds, a South Dakota Republican, boosted the proposal at a subcommittee hearing on it earlier this month.

"The EPA has a long history of creating burdensome, unnecessary regulations without giving the public an opportunity to fully vet the reasoning behind their decisions," Rounds said then.

The EPA says it received almost 600,000 public comments on the proposal. □

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Quavo on cutting collaborations, solo album, Migos and Drake

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Quavo may be one-third of the uber-successful hip-hop group Migos, but he's also a rapper in high demand, appearing as a featured act on Top 10 hits by Post Malone, DJ Khaled, Drake and Liam Payne.

The 27-year-old star said he was collaborating with others so much that he had to turn down work so he could completely focus on his first solo album, "Quavo Huncho," released last week.

"Right now, I'm just going to chill and work my album and calm down on features," he said. "I just want to tuck away and go into kill mode with this album. ...I've turned down projects all the time. Not on some disrespectful-type (stuff), but I don't want to oversaturate my sound."

Quavo, who has appeared on tracks by Camila Cabello, Major Lazer, Halsey and Iggy Azalea, also co-wrote Beyonce and Jay-Z's hit song, "Apes-t." His new album features collaborations with Madonna, Cardi B, Drake, Travis Scott and Lil Baby.

Migos, which includes Offset and Takeoff, are currently on tour with Drake. In an interview with The Associated Press on Monday at his Huncho Hoops celebrity



In this June 25, 2017 file photo, Quavo, of Migos, performs at BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

youth basketball game and music video shoot, Quavo talked about watching Drake end rap beefs with Meek Mill and Chris Brown on the tour, new Migos music and more.

AP: You're the first member of Migos to release a solo project. Will Offset and Takeoff follow suit this year? Quavo: Yes, I don't know the exact dates. But Takeoff will be next and (then) Offset will come.

AP: How about new Migos music?

Quavo: We'll be at the top

of 2019. We're going to hit them with "Culture III."

AP: Did you envision yourself and Migos being this successful?

Quavo: Nah, I never really did see myself as a stand-alone. We never really saw ourselves having solo careers. We came in as a group. We were trying new ways and new sounds. It's all about growth. When we were coming as a group, we weren't thinking about kids, marriage or like real stuff. Seeing Offset have his wife (Cardi B) and kids, it makes you want to grow

up. We all can't stay in the same house no more.

AP: What have you and the group learned from being on tour with Drake?

Quavo: The more and more we hit the stage, our chemistry becomes a lot stronger.

Our sounds are better, our ad-libs come more in pocket. Then coming back off the stage and watching Drake, seeing how he controls the crowd on his solo approach, we learn so much both ways.

AP: You saw Drake squash

his differences with Chris Brown and Meek Mill. How do you feel about rap beefs in general?

Quavo: It's good when two players, two brothers, two black men come together. We don't need to be shooting at nobody. There doesn't need to be any violence. If you can just sit down and talk, you can work it out. That's the best way instead of pulling out guns.

AP: What compelled you to hold the Huncho Hoops basketball game?

Quavo: I'm happy to bring this idea into physical form. These are my dreams that I want to do for the kids. Just for myself as an artist, I really wanted to touch the people.

So instead of taking pictures all day, I want to throw functions for them.

I just want to be a big bro, like a mentor to the people following my footsteps. I know both worlds — I know how it is to be a musician and trying to play ball. I know how it is for a kid in high school trying to make it but you don't and you need another plan. I know how to be a star and control stardom. And once you get there, staying humble, learning how to practice and being focused (is the key). □

Animation film fest rescinds Kobe Bryant invite after outcry

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant was dropped Wednesday from the jury of an animated film festival after calls for the former NBA star's ouster over a 2003 rape allegation.

Eric Beckman the CEO of GKIDS, the company that organizes the Animation Is Film Festival, announced the move.

"After discussions with the various stakeholders of Animation Is Film, the decision has been made to remove Kobe Bryant from the 2018 jury," Beckman said in a statement.

"We are a young organization and it is important to

keep our collective energies focused on the films, the participating filmmakers, and our festival attendees."

An online petition had been circulating demanding Bryant be dropped.

Bryant won an Academy Award in March for his part in making the animated short, "Dear Basketball" and has founded an animation company, Granity Studios.

He released a statement saying he was honored to be invited and disappointed to be excluded.

"This decision further motivates me and my commitment to building a studio



In this Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018 file photo, former NBA basketball all-star Kobe Bryant gestures as he moderates a panel about youth sports during the Aspen Institute's Project Play Summit in Washington.

Associated Press

that focuses on diversity and inclusion in storytelling for the animation industry," Bryant's statement said. "I remain focused on changing the world in positive ways through diverse stories, characters, and leadership, in order to inspire the next generation."

In 2003, Bryant was charged with raping a 19-year-old hotel employee.

The Lakers star said he believed it was a consensual sexual encounter. The case was dropped after Bryant's accuser refused to testify.

She later filed a civil suit against him, which was settled out of court with Bryant admitting no guilt. □

'Wildlife' shows a family in crisis, beautifully

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

It's fall of 1960 in Montana when we meet the Brinson family in "Wildlife," a carefully considered and deeply moving adaptation of a Richard Ford novel about a fracturing marriage and the teenage son witnessing it all.

Things don't start out bad, or don't seem to be. Jerry Brinson (Jake Gyllenhaal) is a well-pressed and affable golf pro working at a local country club, shining shoes and chatting up the members, while his wife Jeanette Brinson (Carey Mulligan) tends to their rented home and 14-year-old son (Ed Oxenbould) with a smile and a sunny attitude. But the shine of the post-war 50s is starting to wear off and the veneer of happiness is beginning to crack, first slowly and then irreparably.

The first crack comes when Jerry loses his job at the club for daring to be overly friendly with the members, and thinking that he's their equal and not their help. When he's offered a



This image released by IFC Films shows Carey Mulligan, left, and Jake Gyllenhaal in a scene from "Wildlife."

chance to come back, he lets his pride consume him instead. Jeanette, realizing that their tenuous situation might become even more dire, finds a job on her own, although she doesn't let her down in the dumps husband see that it was anything more than a lucky, easy find.

Their relationship, at first, seems to be one of equals, two people who like each, their son and their modest lower-ish middle class life

that they still believe has the potential to improve. But then Jerry starts to lose that ambition, that belief that tucking in your shirt and smiling and pressing your slacks and having your wife stay home (despite her intelligence) and son play football (despite his dislike of the sport) will help you improve your lot in life. So he leaves, taking a dangerous, low-wage job fighting wildfires until the snow comes.

Jeanette, who has thus far not allowed Jerry's childish behavior to sour her own outlook and positivity, starts

to regress too (dressing as she did in high school, trading her muted hues for bright colors and purple eyeshadow) as she desperately tries to figure out what she's supposed to do. She settles on going after a wealthier and older man, Warren Miller (Bill Camp) who owns a nice car dealership and whose wife left him and who seems to be a ticket out and into a nicer home.

"Wildlife" is composed with such elegance and empathy that it actually feels like a novel with its keen sense of time and place

and characters as rich as the Montana landscape, which is hard to compete with. There are shots that are so beautiful, you want them to last forever.

The achievement is made all the more extraordinary when you consider the fact that it is from a first time director, in actor Paul Dano, who wrote the adaptation with his real life partner, actress and writer Zoe Kazan. Together these two old souls have (with Ford) studiously captured the particular loneliness of that time, and the anxiety of not living up to the post-war prosperity of everyone else.

"Wildlife" gives particular care to the character of Jeanette and I'd be hard-pressed to name a better performance from Mulligan, who is powerful and vulnerable and can walk right up to that line of female rage without slipping into caricature or stereotype. Of course it helps that she has strong counterparts to play off of, in Oxenbould, and Gyllenhaal who is eerily good at playing the toxically insecure man.

It's one worth making the trip to the theater for. "Wildlife" isn't just a great first film, it's a great film. □

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OCTOBER 18 - 24

<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p>	<p>JAMIE LEE CURTIS JUDY GREER HALLOWEEN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R] MON-THU 4:55 7:15 9:40 FRI 4:55 7:15 9:40 12:00 SAT 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:40 12:00 SUN 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:40 MON-THU 4:05 6:30 8:45 FRI 4:05 6:30 8:45 11:00 SAT 1:45 4:05 6:30 8:45 11:00 SUN 1:45 4:05 6:30 8:45</p>
	<p>ANA MARIA ARIAS VICTOR BAUJOUR TRABAJO SUCIO SPANISH [R] MON-THU 5:25 7:25 9:25 FRI 5:25 7:25 9:25 11:25 SAT 3:25 5:25 7:25 9:25 11:25 SUN 3:25 5:25 7:25 9:25</p>
	<p>JEFF BRIDGES CYNTHIA ERIVO BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R] MON-SUN 9:00</p>
	<p>TOM HARDY MICHELLE WILLIAMS VENOM WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-THU 6:50 9:20 FRI 6:50 9:20 11:50 SAT 1:45 6:50 9:20 11:50 SUN 1:45 6:50 9:20 MON-THU & SUN 3:45 5:50 8:15 FRI-SAT 3:45 5:50 8:15 10:50</p>
<p>LADY GAGA BRADLEY COOPER A STAR IS BORN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R] MON-THU & SUN 4:00 8:35 FRI-SAT 4:00 8:35 11:25</p>	<p>JACK BLACK WENDY MCLENDON-COVEY Goosebumps 2 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-FRI 4:40 6:50 SAT-SUN 2:30 4:40 6:50</p>
<p>KEVIN HART TIFFANY HADDISH NIGHT SCHOOL [PG-13] MON-THU 4:35 7:00 9:30 FRI 4:35 7:00 9:30 11:55 SAT 2:10 4:35 7:00 9:30 11:55 SUN 2:10 4:35 7:00 9:30</p>	<p>CHANNING TATUM JAMES CORDEN SMALL FOOT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-FRI 4:15 6:25 SAT-SUN 2:05 4:15 6:25</p>

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Kurt Vile's wanderlust clear on 'Bottle It In'

By **RON HARRIS**
Associated Press

Kurt Vile, "Bottle It In" (Matador Records)
Perhaps you can't get Kurt Vile to stand still.

Vile co-founded The War on Drugs and promptly quit after the formidable band's debut album release, setting out for a solo career. Now we find him ambling around the country and recording just enough fine music to deliver "Bottle It In," an accessible guitar-fueled foray into the things that give him artistic pause and push him forward.

Vile is inventive throughout the 13-song album, lean-



This cover image released by Matador Records shows "Bottle It In," a release by Kurt Vile.

Associated Press

ing on a lazy lilt of electric guitar to provide the background to his playful lyrics. "Check Baby" buzzes with energy as Vile sings about taking the stage and prepping to play music. A song about preparing to play songs is Vile at his finest.

Then there are the calmer offerings, such as "Mutinies," on which we find Vile backed by Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon. On this track Vile sings about controlling urges in his mind, rebuffing them with pills where applicable. □

'Vietnam' by Max Hastings is masterful account of the war

By JERRY HARKAVY

Associated Press

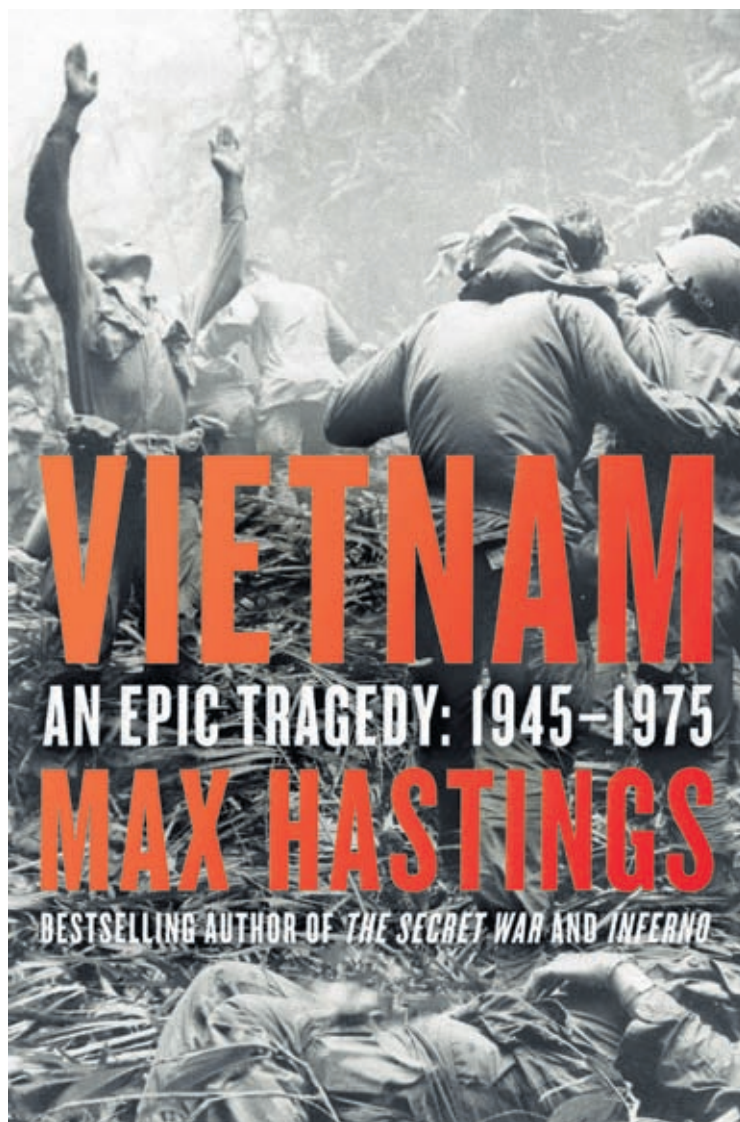
"Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy, 1945-1975" (Harper), by Max Hastings

British journalist Max Hastings, noted for his critically acclaimed books about World War II, has fast-forwarded his research and writing talent to a war that many Americans would like to forget.

His 900-page work chronicles Vietnam's tragic history from Ho Chi Minh's proclamation of an independent state after the 1945 Japanese surrender to the collapse of the South Vietnamese regime 30 years later after the United States cut off ground and air support. Despite ample accounts of heroism and sacrifice on all sides, it's a story in which each of the principal players — France, the United States, Saigon, Hanoi and the Viet Cong — comes away with well-deserved opprobrium.

Unsurprisingly, Hastings concludes that Vietnam was a catastrophe, one that took the lives of as many as 2 million to 3 million combatants and civilians. The war claimed 58,000 American lives, but the number of Vietnamese dead was 40 times greater.

This definitive narrative describes how the French debacle at Dien Bien Phu



This cover image released by Harper shows "Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy: 1945-1975," by Max Hastings.

Associated Press

gave rise to the domino theory and the need to halt the spread of communist domination in Southeast Asia. There were more than 500,000 U.S. service personnel in Vietnam by the time of the 1968 Tet offensive, a

stunning military defeat for the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong that was transformed into a propaganda victory. After Tet, the war was never the same. CBS anchor Walter Cronkite declared the nation was mired

in stalemate, President Lyndon B. Johnson said he would not seek re-election, and the U.S. abandoned any hope of victory and sought instead to extricate itself while avoiding explicit defeat. The fighting would continue for another seven years, a period marked by the My Lai massacre, the invasion of Cambodia and the 1972 Christmas bombing, which Hastings says was designed for partisan political purposes and had no military justification. The narrative includes detailed accounts of all the major battles, with riveting descriptions of what life was like for combatants on both sides. The reader relives the experiences of GIs plodding through booby-trapped jungle, North Vietnamese dodging B52 strikes while heading south on the Ho Chi Minh trail and helicopter pilots braving fire from hot landing zones while inserting troops or extricating the wounded.

Many of the campaigns covered in the book are familiar to those who served in Vietnam or followed the war in the media, but a rarely mentioned 1968 battle at Dai Do in which a Marine battalion suffered devastating losses gets special scrutiny. During three days of bloody combat, Marines displayed both courage

and cowardice in a series of senseless assaults against a well-entrenched enemy. The author says the American commanders who "displayed folly of Crimean proportions" shoulder much of the blame.

Drug abuse, racial strife and the erosion of discipline and the will to fight took their toll on U.S. troops. By contrast, Hastings points to the stronger performance of the small contingents of Australians who were disciplined in their use of firepower and exercised better fieldcraft.

Neither side comes away with clean hands, but Hastings writes that news media were quick to record atrocities by U.S. troops and the brutality on the communist side went largely unreported, fueling antiwar propaganda that portrayed the North as the virtuous party. Hastings' narrative, along with Ken Burns' masterful series on PBS, offers a well-balanced account of a war that ended more than four decades ago. The author weaves anecdotal and first-person accounts from both sides into the overall history to produce a compelling account that veterans of the war, those who felt its impact at home and readers born decades after the fighting ended will find hard to put down. □

Michael Buble shuts down rumors of retirement from music

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Buble is shutting down rumors that he's going to retire from music, saying he was misquoted in a recent interview.

Buble told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he is not planning on retiring anytime soon. He disputes an Oct. 13 interview published in the Daily Mail that said he would quit music after the release of his upcoming album "Love," due Nov. 16.

The report suggested the Grammy-winning singer



In this Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 file photo, Canadian singer Michael Buble poses for a photo to promote the upcoming Oct. 21 release of his new album "Nobody But Me" in Toronto.

Associated Press

was stepping away from music for good following his son Noah's cancer

battle, but Buble said the story is false. "I'll keep going until the

news of my death comes out, which will probably be fake too," he said with a chuckle. "At that point, you're really famous now. Things are really going well on this record. Buble is hanging with Elvis. ... Buble and Elvis having fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches together."

The Canadian singer took a two-year break from public life to spend time with his family before recording his eighth studio album. He and his wife, actress Luisana Lopilato, have two sons, Elias and Noah, together and welcomed a baby girl named

Vida Amber Betty in July. The singer said he learned about the report after receiving text messages from a couple friends. In reply to his friends, he told them: "Consider the source."

"I'm not strong enough to deal with it, so I don't deal with it," he said. "By the way, those friends that wrote me, I said to them 'Thank you so much for caring about my well-being. Do me a favor, don't share it with me. Send me pictures of your kids and tell me how you're doing, because I much rather know about that.'" □

Basking in the Tuscan Sun

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

CORTONA, Italy (AP) — After my breast cancer diagnosis and as I was going through what would be more than a year of treatments that included chemotherapy and radiation, I vowed I would return to Italy. Both sets of my grandparents emigrated from there, and I always turned to Italy as a source of comfort.

At first, I wasn't sure what part of Italy I would travel. The last time I was there was in 1998. But when my sister and brother-in-law invited me for a one-week stay at a villa in Cortona in Tuscany, I knew my plans were set.

My plan was to spend a week in Rome with a friend. Then, I would join my sister and brother-in-law and their friends on the second leg of the trip. I had never been to Cortona, the walled medieval hilltop town popularized by Frances Mayes' memoir "Under the Tuscan Sun," later made into a movie. We would use Cortona, nestled near the border of the Umbria region, as our base and then travel to different parts of Tuscany.

I hoped to be inspired by one of Italy's most romanticized regions, with its cultural and artistic legacy, its post-card views of rolling hills dotted with stone farms and medieval castles, and its food — simple but flavorful. And just maybe, I



This Sept. 10, 2018 photo shows a view from the top of medieval hill town Cortona, in the province of Arezzo in the Tuscany region of Italy.

could reconnect with my relatives on my mom's side who lived in the Siena area. I hadn't seen them since 1984, and we had lost touch over the years after my grandfather and great uncle in the United States passed away.

But my experience was beyond what I expected. By staying at the villa, I was able to have a deeper understanding of the Tuscan culture and live like a Tuscan resident. We shopped for groceries at the local supermarket, cooked dinner at the house, and went on walks among the fields of sunflowers, olive trees and grapevines. We washed clothes and hung them out to dry (dryers are not the norm in Italy). I woke up to the crowing of roosters. And I met a wonderful group of residents including

American-born chef Ryan Hanley and his Italian wife Debora Mazzierli; we visited their centuries-old Tuscan stone home for cooking classes.

We stayed at the villa Il Barattino, which had a swimming pool, washing machine, satellite TV and free Wi-Fi connections. It rented for little over \$800 a night and sleeps 12 and is managed by Cortona-based Hill Towns Tours, which manages villas in Tuscany. The villa consisted of two buildings, which combined had six bedrooms. If you rent a villa with friends, you can cut the cost of the rental fees and the car rentals. And we saved money by eating in a few nights using the spacious kitchen and outdoor dining areas. Location is key. Our villa, set apart from the main

road, was about seven miles to the town center. Cortona is about an hour drive to key medieval hill towns like Assisi and Montepulciano, home of the Vino Nobile wines. And you could take a train from Cortona to Florence. Every day, we looked forward to a new activity, some we planned on our own; others were planned by Mazzierli, who also acted as our tour guide. She gave us a tour of San Galgano, where we visited the gothic style 13th century abbey which no longer has a roof, as well as San Gimignano, known for its many medieval towers. Another day, we went wine tasting. We first visited a local small winery called Leuta. Then, we went to Montepulciano, where we visited the family-run Ercolani winery's wine shop

Associated Press

and then toured its underground wine cellars and its medieval museum — and then sampled its wine with cheese and salami. On the days to ourselves, we wandered the medieval streets of Cortona's center, and spent some time at the Etruscan museum. In Assisi, we visited the Basilica of St. Francis, where we saw the famous Giotto frescos.

Every meal was an epicurean feast. Among the highlights; eating pici pasta at La Loggetta, overlooking the main square in Cortona, sampling the massive seafood platter at Morgan's, which overlooked Lake Tresimano, and tasting the sumptuous zucchini flower appetizer at Osteria del Teatro in Cortona. In Assisi, I had a delicious melon and prosciutto salad at Le Terrazze di Properzio, which offered breathtaking panoramic views of the town.

One of the most intimate food experiences? The cooking class at the home of Hanley and Mazzierli. We cooked such dishes as zucchini flan, Tuscan ragu sauce, and stuffed tomatoes with rice under their supervision. And we made our own pici pasta, made with flour, water and olive oil. Mazzierli encouraged us to "eat with our heart, not with our stomach."

And yes, my sister and I — armed with a GPS and a 30-year old address my mom gave us — did connect with our relatives, the most magical moment of my trip.

They showed us family photo albums. My cousin Antonio showed us a spool of thread that my grandfather had given him years ago from his clothing factory. To him, it was the symbol of the American dream. They called other relatives, and soon, the house was packed. The pasta came out, followed by sauteed chicken, pickled zucchini and vanilla gelato. Our hearts were full.

This trip was more than checking off a bucket list. This was a celebration of life. And so, in that spirit, I promised my relatives I would be back next year. □



This Sept. 13, 2018 photo shows Anne D'Innocenzio, standing right, right, and her sister, Donna Burke, posing with their Italian relatives in Torrita di Siena, Italy.

Associated Press



This Sept. 9, 2018 photo shows sliced Chianina T-bone with arugula, parmesan shavings and peppercorns prepared by local Tuscan chef Ryan Hanley at Il Barattino, the villa in Cortona, Italy.

Associated Press